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Saudis 'committed
to deal with Britain'

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said
Wednesday it was totally committed
to the \$63 billion Al Yamamah
arms deal with Britain. "Saudi Arabia
wants to reaffirm its total commitment
to the armaments deal it signed with
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Egypt to try 46
militant suspects

AIRO (R) — Egypt will put 46
suspected Muslim militants on
trial in a military court Thursday
on charges of subversion and
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Algerian police
arrest 10 in
rackdown

LGIER (R) — Algerian
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of a "terrorist" group led by a
uslim fundamentalist preacher,
a official news agency APS said
Wednesday. Five members of the
group, which operated in the
desert area of Tlemcen near the
Moroccan border, are still being
sought.

France protests after Libyan ban on judge

PARIS (AP) — France Wednesday filed a protest with Libya for scuttling a planned meeting between the French judge investigating Libya's alleged involvement in a 1989 airplane bombing and his counterpart, the foreign ministry spokesman said. Daniel Bernard said authorities refused to allow a French navy boat carrying investigating Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere to dock in Tripoli's port Tuesday. "The government had obtained all authorizations by diplomatic means," Mr. Bernard said. But a "drunk turn-around by Libyan authorities" hindered the judge from accomplishing his mission. "The French government immediately protested to the Libyan government responsible for this situation," Mr. Bernard said. Mr. Bruguiere, who left Paris Monday for the appointment, was apparently returning to France. A passenger plane of France's UTA airlines exploded in the Niger desert Sept. 29, 1989, killing 170 people. The judge has issued international arrest warrants for four Libyans, including one for the brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. The brother-in-law, Abdullah Senoussi, is considered number two in Libya's intelligence service.

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Fire wrecks reconstruction in downtown Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — A huge fire in downtown Tehran early Wednesday gutted 30 shops and a disused movie theatre, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said the cause of the fire was under investigation, without ruling out sabotage. The fire, monitored in Nicosia, started there were no casualties in the blaze, which erupted just before 1 a.m. (2130 GMT) in Ardow Street, the city's main commercial thoroughfare. Firefighters from 10 stations rushed to the scene, IRNA said. Witnesses said it took six hours to control the blaze.

face execution in UAE

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Egypt to try 46 militant suspects

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Hassan II visits Jordan amid 'very positive' signs for healing Arab rifts

Moroccan leader returns to S. Arabia after meeting with King Hussein

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — King Hassan II of Morocco Wednesday paid a lightning visit to Jordan in what observers described as an effort to heal the rift in Arab relations and promote the Middle East peace process.

The Moroccan monarch's visit to Jordan is a part of a five-country Middle Eastern tour aimed at reconciling Arab countries still divided over their conflicting stands on the Gulf war. "The whole purpose of the visit is to achieve Arab reconciliation," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told reporters upon the return of King Hassan to Tabouk, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, after talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

Describing the four-hour visit as "very significant," Dr. Abu Jaber said there were very "positive indications" that King Hassan's shuttle diplomacy was successful in achieving his aim. All sides seem to be interested in achieving Arab reconciliation, he said.

King Hassan would not have undertaken the trip unless he expected positive results, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Declining comment on whether King Hussein might pay a visit to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Abu Jaber said King Hassan did not carry any specific messages from Riyadh. He would not, however, rule out the possibility that King Hassan might make a second visit to the country.

Speaking after a three-hour meeting at the Al Hashimiyyah Palace between King Hussein and King Hassan, Dr. Abu Jaber said the two leaders "must have discussed" the convening of an Arab summit but "this was something for the future."

Earlier reports said the Moroccan monarch might call for holding an Arab summit but officials said the King would not make his call public unless he was assured he would receive a positive response.

A senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times last week that the time was ripe for the summit but the meeting would not occur without the approval of Saudi Arabia. He said, however, that the gap between Jordan and Saudi Arabia remains wide.

Dr. Abu Jaber said King Hussein and King Hassan were in full agreement on the need to show Arab solidarity with Arab parties involved in peace talks with

Israel. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that "it is time we stood by our Arab brethren who are engaged in negotiations with the Israeli government so that they can feel the political and material support of all Arabs."

Mr. Filali said it was time Arab countries looked at the future from a new perspective so that the Arab World will not continue to be marginalised.

King Hassan, who was accompanied by an official delegation including Prince Rashid, the foreign minister and senior advisors, left Amman at about 5 p.m. and was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and other officials.

The Moroccan monarch arrived in Amman around 1 p.m. to a 21-gun salute and official reception headed by King Hussein.

King Hassan, who has already visited the United Arab Emirates in his first trip to the region in 30 years, is also expected to visit Syria and Egypt.

Qatar confirms sending envoy back to Baghdad

MANAMA (R) — Qatar said Wednesday it had sent its ambassador back to Iraq, the first Gulf envoy to take up his post in Baghdad since the Gulf war.

The official Qatar Radio said the ambassador delivered a message from Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on "brotherly relations between the two countries."

The radio, monitored in Bahrain, said Ambassador Mohammed Ben Rashid Al Khalifa delivered the message Tuesday night.

Qatar was one of several Arab countries that sent troops to Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq fired several Scud missiles at Qatar during the Gulf war last year in which a U.S.-led alliance ousted Iraq's forces from Kuwait. None of them landed.

Qatar is embroiled in a border dispute with Saudi Arabia that erupted into violence on Sept. 30 when three people were killed at a frontier post.

Earlier this month, Iraq expressed its support for Qatar in the border dispute.

Qatar is one of the six members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), of which only Oman kept its ambassador in Baghdad during the Gulf crisis.

The ruler of the Sharjah emirate in the UAE flew back to

Qatar Wednesday in apparent mediation bid to defuse Qatar's dispute with Saudi Arabia.

Qatar Radio said Sheikh Sultan Ben Mohammed Al Qassimi of Sharjah had talks with Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad which "reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region."

Sheikh Sultan flew into Doha from Jeddah where he had talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Tuesday night after having met officials in Qatar earlier in the day.

Arab diplomats said Sheikh Sultan's shuttle between the two Gulf Arab allies was aimed at mediating in the territorial dispute.

They said the UAE did not want the Saudi-Qatari problem to overshadow its dispute with Iran over three Gulf islands occupied by Iran.

Kuwait has led Arab mediation efforts to settle the problem peacefully but so far has made no apparent progress.

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks Wednesday with Qatar's first deputy foreign minister, Ahmad Al Mahmoud, on regional and bilateral issues, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) said.

The report said both sides stressed the need for Gulf countries to resolve regional problems by themselves, through peaceful means.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday greets King Hassan II upon the Moroccan leader's arrival here for a short visit (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Iraqi dissidents open talks

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (Agencies) — More than 200 delegates from Iraqi opposition groups met in this Kurdish town Wednesday to choose their leadership.

The meeting was the latest step by the religiously diverse opponents of the regime of President Saddam Hussein towards consolidating their challenge to the Iraqi leader's government.

The conference, brought together the leaders of the Iraqi Kurds, who have gained the control of the country's north through Western help; Shiite fundamentalist and secular Muslim opponents in the south; Sunni Muslims and communists.

Rend Rahim, a woman member of the 236-member opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC), told reporters that high on the agenda was the election of a 25-member executive committee and a joint political leadership of three to five members.

She said the congress would lay down guidelines and general strategy, to be carried out by the executive body. The committee will probably be based in London, she said.

The joint leadership was expected to be composed of Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni leaders. They would "carry the message, internationally," Ms. Rahim said.

The conference will also pursue the establishment of stronger protection in southern Iraq, where the Western powers already have imposed an air exclusion zone.

The air exclusion zone was not everything we wanted, but, nevertheless was a beginning," she said.

The opposition leaders hope that the creation of the zone, coupled with the emergence of an alternative authority to Baghdad would help bring President Saddam down through large-scale

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli-Palestinian track in slump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, once the most promising track in the Middle East peace conference, are in a grumpy slump as an 11-day U.S. presidential election recess approaches.

By contrast, Israel and Syria are talking about territory and peace although they, too, are not remotely within reach of an agreement.

"You know," chief Syrian negotiator Mirwafak Al 'Alf said as he arrived at the State Department Wednesday, "it is amazing that wars need so few days for weeks to take place with all their tragic impact on people, but when it comes to peace, then we start to put obstacles and manoeuvres."

But Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich said he hoped the session would produce a joint statement evaluating the year-long talks in a positive way.

Israel's raid into Lebanon Tuesday was the latest point of friction between Israel and the Palestinians.

But after a 45-minute disruption, negotiators resumed their discussion of the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinians are trying to wrench a commitment from Israel to give up the land, and also East Jerusalem, while suspending any expansion of the Jewish population in the areas.

According to U.S. and diplomatic sources, the disruption began with a demand by Haidi Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator, for five minutes of silence to observe what he said was an Israeli attack on a Palestinian refugee facility in the reprisal for a bombing by Hizbollah militants in the Israeli "security zone" inside Lebanon. Five Israeli soldiers were killed Sunday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Elyakim Rubinstein, the chief Israeli negotiator, led his delegation out of the room and that Mr. Rubinstein then called a 45 minute break for a delegation room.

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(Continued on page 5)

Sudan blames U.N. for famine deaths

NAIROBI (R) — The Sudanese government blamed the United Nations Wednesday for a sharp increase in the number of people starving to death in parts of southern Sudan, saying that organisation had abandoned relief work there. "The tragic situation in the town of Wau and others in the south is the full responsibility of the United Nations," Ali Haj Mohammad, Sudan's chief peace negotiator, told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. "Khartoum gave the U.N. permission to fly food into Wau twice a day but U.N. officials told me at a meeting they have not sent any food because their plane is being serviced. 'This is absolute rubbish, totally ridiculous and unacceptable.' U.N. officials were not immediately available for comment. The United Nations suspended relief work in eastern Equatoria this month after four foreigners were killed there in mysterious circumstances. The area does not include Wau. It is flying and trucking food to vast areas of southern Sudan but complains that its work is endangered by civil war and snarled by the bureaucracy of both the Khartoum government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Mr. Mohammad said the Sudanese government was caught in a dilemma.

Tension eases in S. Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Tension eased in South Lebanon Tuesday after two days of clashes between Israeli troops and resistance forces. Israeli leaders said they would not allow the situation to deteriorate into war.

Security sources said the region was calm and no rockets had been fired from the positions of the fighters of Hizbollah into Israel's self-styled "security zone" or its northern settlements.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel massed overnight a mechanised battalion made up of 500 troops, 10 tanks and 15 armoured personnel carriers on its northern border.

Nine Israeli Merkava tanks were earlier brought across the border into forward positions of the security zone.

The sources said the buildup could be a preemptive measure that would allow the Israelis to promptly retaliate against guerrilla attacks.

Reporters who drove along the Israel-Lebanon border in the

morning saw no military activities in the area.

In Israel, officials struck a conciliatory note, saying they would not allow the situation in Lebanon to worsen.

Deputy Defence Minister Murchel Gur was quoted by Israel Radio as telling the Knesset that "under no circumstances will we allow this situation to deteriorate into a situation of war with Lebanon."

The hostilities were touched off by a roadside bomb explosion, claimed by Hizbollah, inside the "security" enclave that killed five Israeli soldiers and wounded five others Sunday.

To avenge the bombing, the bloodiest attack against its soldiers in two years, Israel blasted South Lebanon with relentless barrages of artillery fire until late Tuesday.

It also sent air force fighter jets and helicopter gunships and gunboats on aerial and naval bombing missions.

(Continued on page 5)

Environment talks inch forward

THE HAGUE (R) — Arabs and Israelis have made slow progress in mapping a joint approach to cleaning up their shared environment at two days of talks which ended Tuesday, but age-old rivalries scuppered any concrete agreement.

Both sides said the discussions on oil spills, coral reefs, waste management and the encroaching desert had been constructive, despite the grim shadow thrown on proceeding by heavy fighting in South Lebanon.

Jad Ishaq, head of the Palestinian delegation, described the meeting as "two very fruitful encounters."

Israel's Peleg, leader of the Israeli group, said: "These professional deliberations have enabled us to leave this conference with the impression we have

made some mileage."

Delegates agreed the conference, grouping 37 delegations from Middle East states, the United Nations, the World Bank and other countries, would meet again, probably next February.

But a formal signing-up statement by the meeting's Japanese chairman, Yoshiji Nogami, proved impossible to draft because of Israeli objections to naming joint environmental centres as "Palestine National" institutional, Palestinian delegates said.

Controversy over the statement delayed the final session of the talks by around two hours.

"It's very sad that after two days of good discussions, the Israelis should object to mere words," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representa-

tive Leila Shabid told reporters. Diplomats said Mr. Nogami told the closing session the talks had helped define the most pressing problems.

Top of the agenda was protection of the unique eco-system of the Gulf of Aqaba — bordered by Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia — whose coral-studded coastline is a major tourist resource not only for Israel, but increasingly Jordan and Egypt.

Pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean, the spreading desert and water contamination were other issues of common concern.

In all these areas, further studies are planned and two special seminars are expected to be hosted by Japan and the United

(Continued on page 5)

Security, water, refugees, borders and mechanisms on Jordan-Israel agenda

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan and Israel have worked out an informal draft agenda for their bilateral talks under way here.

The draft was worked out late Tuesday.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali said Wednesday the Jordanian and Israeli delegations had started to deal with issues in depth. He said the two sides had agreed on "the common language concerning some issues on the agenda of the talks."

Dr. Majali expressed hope that a final agreement on the agenda would be reached, especially that a year have collapsed since the

opening of the Middle East peace conference, saying this shows how difficult this stage was.

Wednesday's meeting was the last in the second week of the seventh of the Arab-Israeli talks which will recess until after the U.S. presidential elections.

The draft, a copy of which made available to the Jordan Times, said:

A. Goal: The achievement of just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel as per the Madrid invitation.

B. Components of Israel-Jordan peace negotiations:

1. Searching for steps to arrive at a state of peace based on

Security Council resolutions (242) and (338) in all their aspects.

2. Security

a. Refraining from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudice the final outcome of negotiations.

b. Threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

c. i) Mutual commitment, as a threat to each other by any use of force and not to use weapons by one side against the other including conventional and non-conventional mass destruction weapons.

ii. Mutual commitment, as a

matter of priority and as soon as possible, to work towards a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, conventional and non-conventional weapons; this goal is to be achieved in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and openness.

Note: The above (item c-ii) may be revised in accordance with relevant agreements to be reached in the multilateral working group on arms control and regional security.

d. Mutually-agreed-upon security arrangements and security

confidence building measures.

3. Water:

a. Securing the rightful water shares of the two sides.

b. Searching for ways to alleviate water shortage.

4. Refugees and displaced persons: Achieving an agreed just solution to the bilateral aspects of the problem of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international law.

5. Borders and territorial matters: Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate,

without prejudice to the status of the territories presently under Israeli military government control; both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary.

6. Exploring the potentials of future bilateral cooperation, within a regional context where appropriate, in the following:

a. Natural Resources

— Water, energy and environment

— Rift Valley development

b. Human Resources:

— Demography

— Labour

— Health

— Education

— Drug control

c. Infrastructure

— Transportation: land and air.

d. Economic areas including tourism.

7. Phasing the discussion, agreement and implementation of the items above including appropriate mechanisms for negotiations in specific fields.

8. Discussion on matters related to both tracks to be decided upon in common.

C. It is anticipated that the above endeavour will ultimately, following the attainment of mutually satisfactory solutions to the elements of this agenda, culminate in a peace treaty.

Congressional Democrats accuse Bush of arming Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Senior Democrats in Congress have accused President George Bush of helping arm Iraq before its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and trying to cover up his actions.

"Contrary to the president's report to Congress and his recent public pronouncements, there is an overwhelming body of evidence that clearly shows the Bush administration made a conscious decision to enhance Iraq's military capability," Representative Henry Gonzalez (D-Tx.) told a Senate hearing.

"Did we sell Iraq bombs? Maybe not — but it is clear that we sold Iraq the equipment and know-how needed to make conventional weapons and equipment that was clearly useful in developing nuclear bombs and long-range ballistic missiles," said Mr. Gonzalez, chairman of the House of Representatives' Banking Committee.

"It is also quite clear that from day one it has been the policy of the highest levels of the Bush administration to mislead the Congress and more importantly the public into thinking that our government played no role in arming Iraq."

Mr. Gonzalez released documents he said showed that U.S. exports were approved to Iraq that could be used for military purposes. Among the documents were export licenses for computers from Space Research Corp., which Mr. Gonzalez said was run by the late ballistics expert Gerald Bull.

Mr. Gonzalez said the technology was going to be used by Iraq to make projectiles for a long-range super gun that could hurl nuclear or chemical shells as far as 100 miles.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan, Mr. Gonzalez said he had also re-

ceived reports that Agriculture Department employees had allegedly shredded documents about U.S. agricultural loan guarantees to Iraq.

"I would like to know if there is any basis to the claim that agricultural documents are being shredded," he wrote.

"No... documents on Iraq were shredded, as near as we can tell in the short amount of time" available to check the allegation, responded Agriculture Department spokesman Roger Runningen. He said the shredders were kept locked and that approval had to be obtained from agency leaders before anything was shredded.

Mr. Bush approved a national security directive several months before Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait that called for an effort to improve relations between Washington and Iraq but he has denied giving military aid to Baghdad.

Independent Ross Perot in the last presidential debate accused Mr. Bush and the State Department of giving Iraq the go-ahead to invade northern Kuwait. Mr. Bush strongly denied that.

Senate Banking Chairman Donald Riegle, a Michigan Democrat who scheduled the hearing even though Congress is in recess, said the administration ignored warnings that Iraq was trying to make nuclear weapons and build up its armed forces.

"We now know that between January 1985 and August 1990, the executive branch of our government approved 771 different export licenses for sale of dual-use technology to Iraq," Mr. Riegle said. "I think that is a devastating record."

Dual-use technology, such as computers, can be used for military or civilian purposes. The committee's senior Republican, Senator Jake Garn (Utah),

called the hearing a "political witch hunt."

"This hearing, called when members are back in their states where they belong, is an obvious misuse of tax dollars for purely partisan purposes," he said.

The existence of U.S.-made or U.S.-licensed weaponry in Iraq's inventory, as reported in another document, could undermine recent statements by Mr. Bush and his top aides.

While these reports contain no evidence that U.S. manufacturers sold weapons directly to Iraq, several intelligence reports describe Iraq's land-mine inventory as containing the very types of devices faced by the U.S.-led coalition forces who confronted Iraqi troops in Kuwait in February 1991.

The partially declassified and heavily censored reports were obtained by William Arkin, the director of Military Research for Greenpeace, a liberal environmental group, under the Freedom of Information Act.

One November 1990 report compiled by U.S. army intelligence, entitled "Iraqi combat engineer capabilities," lists four types of U.S. mines in the Iraqi arsenal. They are the M-14 anti-personnel blast mine, the M-16 bounding fragmentation anti-personnel blast mine, the M-16 bounding fragmentation anti-personnel mine, the M-19 non-metallic anti-tank blast mine and the M-21 plate-charge anti-tank mine.

Two other types of mines were deleted by the censor presumably, said Mr. Arkin, because they are designated classified types of U.S. land mines.

Some of the mines listed are of U.S. origin but are manufactured in other countries under license from the United States.

More on trial than just 'L.A. Eight' Palestinians

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of two Palestinians charged in 1987 with terrorism-related activities in Los Angeles is being seen as an expression of U.S. foreign policy. It is also considered a test case of whether resident aliens have the same constitutional rights as American citizens, according to the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and Western media reports.

"If the U.S. government is successful in this case it will be a dangerous precedent for the First Amendment rights of all non-U.S. citizens, especially Palestinian-Americans," said Barbara Lupin, ADC member and Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) executive director.

Shader Hamide and Michel Shadadieh, both in their late 30s, are accused by the American government of providing material support to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which Washington says is a terrorist organization.

The defendants' alleged support of the PFLP apparently involves distributing a Palestinian magazine, that is legally available in the U.S. — including the Library of Congress — and raising money for clinics, pre-schools and other medical and social services in the occupied territories and Lebanon, Mrs. Lupin said.

Mr. Hamide and Mr. Shadadieh are part of a group known as the "L.A. Eight" whose members were arrested at gunpoint in Los Angeles, California, in 1987 and held without bail in maximum security for three weeks.

Ever since the arrest, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been trying to deport the group's members, who also include five other Palestinian men and one Kenyan woman.

The Palestinians deny they pose a terrorism threat and that they are PFLP members.

The U.S. government dropped political charges against the other six, filing new charges mainly involving technical visa violations, ADC said.

To date, the U.S. government has not made public evidence that any "L.A. Eight" members were engaged in subversive acts, Mrs. Lupin said.

According to the Wall Street Journal, at the time of the arrests, FBI Chief William Webster had said the U.S. government had no evidence of terrorist activity against "L.A. Eight."

"If these individuals had been United States citizens, there would not have been a basis for their arrests," Mr. Webster was quoted as saying in the newspaper.

According to a portion of America's new Immigration Act of 1990, the president of ADC, said "if the government succeeds in our case, organizations, such as ADC, will put out of business," Mr. Hamide's letter said.

"Even people like me could be arrested," she said. Mrs. Lupin's Berkeley-based non-profit MECA group supplies medical equipment, medicine and food to Palestinian children in the occupied territories.

The Justice Department has filed a 135-page document detailing its argument that PFLP is a terrorist organization, according to the Journal.

The PFLP was once involved in several hijackings in the 1970s, most notably that of an Air France jet flown to Uganda, and is one of the "rejectionist 10" — the Palestinian groups that oppose continuing the peace talks.

According to the Journal, Justice Department papers filed in the case acknowledge that aliens do have the same rights to freedom of speech and expression — but not always.

"I am sure," said the brief carried by the Journal, "it is simply inconceivable that the First Amendment should be read... to allow guests to remain in this country when they wish to support meaningfully an organization that has killed our officials and urges attacks on American interests."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti MPs call for women's rights

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti members of parliament (MPs) called Tuesday for women to be granted the vote and the right to stand as parliamentary candidates, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. A leader of the Al Fatah (women's) Club also said a women's delegation had visited the all-male parliament to demand their political rights. A parliamentary source told Reuters four MPs parliament appealed for women's political rights during a discussion of the emir's opening speech to parliament, which he made last Tuesday. One member argued against. Alif Sultan, a member of the governing board of al Fatah Club, told Reuters a delegation handed a petition Sunday to Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun demanding their rights. "You cannot give Kuwaiti women half-rights," Mr. Sultan said, responding to a draft law proposed by Hamed Al Jouan, a deputy, that would give women the vote but stop short of letting them stand immediately as candidates. Mr. Jouan has submitted for study on its Islamic merits a proposal to let women stand as parliamentary candidates. The source said it might be weeks before the draft went before parliament.

Iran carries out naval manoeuvres

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian navy and Revolutionary Guards have carried out four days of manoeuvres in the Strait of Hormuz, at the entrance to the Gulf, Iranian television said. The report, monitored on Tuesday night by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the exercises demonstrated Iran's "capability to defend the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman." The television said three missile brigades and a number of radar units operating under unified command took part in exercises to occupy strategic points. Describing the manoeuvres, codenamed "Flash 2," as missile exercises, the report said they were aimed at the "destruction of ships and installations of the hypothetical enemy." The report did not identify the Iranian ships taking part.

German official to meet Rushdie

BONN (R) — Germany's foreign ministry said Tuesday an official will meet British author Salman Rushdie on a current visit to seek help evading a death threat from Iran. Spokesman Hans Schumacher said Mr. Rushdie would be received at the ministry this week, but he would not say when. "The foreign ministry has in the past done all in its power to help Rushdie, and will continue to do so," Mr. Schumacher said. Mr. Rushdie came to Germany Sunday to seek support from political leaders and explain his predicament to the general public. "Germany is the most influential country in Europe and also has the best relations with Iran," Mr. Rushdie told Stern magazine in an interview released on Monday ahead of publication on Thursday. His whereabouts were not known. The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pronounced a death sentence against Mr. Rushdie in February 1989, accusing him of having blasphemed against Islam in his book, "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rushdie has lived in hiding under British police protection ever since for fear of assassination.

Turkey may buy Russian weapons


ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Russia are expected to sign a security agreement which will enable Ankara to buy Russian weapons, the Anatolia news agency said Tuesday. It quoted Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin, who went to Moscow for a five-day visit, as saying Turkey would buy helicopters, armoured vehicles and Kalashnikov automatic rifles from Russia. He did not say how much Turkey would spend. "The agreement will enable Turkey and Russia to cooperate in combating drug trafficking, a big resource for terrorism. We will cooperate in the exchange of equipment, information and personnel," Mr. Sezgin added. Mr. Sezgin went to Moscow after Turkey admitted using a German armoured car two weeks ago in operations against Kurdish rebels. Germany resumed arms exports to Turkey earlier this year in response to Turkish assurances that it would not use German weapons against domestic insurgents.

Iran, Turkey forewarn rivalry in Central Asia

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish and Iranian leaders said Tuesday it was better to cooperate in Central Asia than to compete for influence in the Muslim republics in what was once the Soviet Union. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, on a visit to Tehran, said Iran and Turkey had a responsibility to cooperate. "As two powerful states in the region, (they) can be effective in promoting peace and calm and in the economic development of the region," he added. His host, Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "If joint cooperation is reflected instead of competition, this will greatly benefit Muslims." Both men were quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus. Mr. Demirel and Mr. Rafsanjani said it was wrong to think their countries were in fact rivals in Central Asia. "Such fictitious rivalry is to detriment of Muslims," said Mr. Rafsanjani. But he added: "Had Iran and Turkey taken joint actions, the situation of Muslims in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Caucasus would have been different." Both leaders said they regretted the failure of the international community to protect Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Iran compensated for embassy attack

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia said Wednesday it will pay 470,000 dollars (US \$329,000) in compensation to Iran for an attack on its Canberra embassy by dissidents in April. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said the payment could be shared by the Iranian government with three embassy staff injured in the attack. The attack by 13 dissident Iranian nationals living in Australia coincided with attacks on Iranian missions in New York, Ottawa, Bern, Bonn, Copenhagen, the Hague, London, Paris, Oslo and Stockholm. The raids were in retaliation for an Iranian air strike against dissidents in Iraq earlier in April.



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Hemingsways
19:00	News in French
19:15	Variebles
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Uncle Buck
21:10	Civil War
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the week
"Full Moon in the Blue"	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:23	Fajr
05:40	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:30	Dhuhr
14:30	'Asr
17:08	Maghreb
18:17	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh Tel. 510740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637450	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair during the day, relatively cold at night and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman Min./max. temp. 12 / 23	
Aqaba 16 / 30	
Dessiers 9 / 25	
Jordan Valley 15 / 30	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Zein Zaghlool 638591
Dr. Farouq Noor 786680
Dr. Ghaleb Zawalideh 736011
Dr. Abdul Odeh Al Lala 696048
Fire pharmacy 661912
Furdous pharmacy 78336
Al Asena pharmacy 670555
Nairoukh pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Min./max. temp. 12 / 23
Aqaba 16 / 30
Dessiers 9 / 25
Jordan Valley 15 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 891228
Fire Brigade 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Furdous pharmacy 78336
Al Asena pharmacy 670555
Nairoukh pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 6647114
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Abdali 6662737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6646446
Indian, Al-Muhajir 7770103
Al-Basit, J. Ashrafieh 7511126
Army, Marfa 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
Zayn Odeh Hospital (09)943333
Zayn National Hospital (09)905060
The Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Medical Hospital (09)98990

IRRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Raj Al Nades Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:15 Zayn Odeh Hospital (09)943333
08:15 Zayn National Hospital (09)905060
09:15 The Sina Hospital (09)98732
10:15 Al Hikma Medical Hospital (09)98990

16:30	Colombo (RJ)
16:35	Larnaca (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:30	Athens (RJ)
18:30	London, Berlin (RJ)
19:10	Tunis Comblanca (RJ)
20:00	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:10	Rome (RJ)

06:15	Beirut (ME)
13:45	Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30	Riyadh (SU)
15:00	Istanbul (TK)
18:00	Dubai (EA)
20:00	Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:00	Riyadh (SU)
16:35	Istanbul (TK)
17:00	Dubai (EA)
20:00	Cairo (MS)
21:00	Larnaca (CY)

DEPARTURES

06:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	Rome (RJ)
11:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:00	Paris (RJ)
12:00	London, Berlin (RJ)
12:10	London (RJ)
12:30	Larnaca (RJ)
20:00	Jeddah (RJ)
20:00	Bahrain Doha (RJ)
20:00	Damascus (RJ)
21:00	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:15	Paris (AF)
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MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price, in Jds per kg.	
Apples (red)	800 / 600
Bananas	500 / 450
Bananas (Mekans)	450 / 400
Beans	400 / 280
Cabbages	130 / 80
Carrots	450 / 300
Cauliflowers	330 / 250
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 200
Eggplants	240 / 200
Garlic	340 / 250
Lemons	620 / 500
Marrows (large)	220 / 160
Marrows (small)	140 / 80
Onions (green)	280 / 200
Onions (dry)	320 / 220
Peppers (red)	180 / 120
Peppers (green)	220 / 140
Potatoes	150 / 100
Spinach	340 / 250
Tomatoes	160 / 50
Turnips	360 / 300
Black Grapes	450 / 350
Green Grapes	470 / 350
Dates	500 / 450
Pomegranates	600 / 500
Spinach	350 / 250

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends cable to Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, congratulating him on the anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. King Hussein wished Mr. Ozal continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity.

Education upgrading training envisaged

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education is enlisting the help of several foreign nations and other Arab countries in implementing the 1987 national educational conference resolutions according to a senior ministry official. Mohammad Al Wahsh, director general of the educational training programme at the Ministry of Education, said that one of the 1987 resolutions calls for raising the standard of the local teachers by helping those with diplomas to acquire a BA degree. The training is being conducted at state owned universities. The UK, Germany, Japan and UNESCO are helping with the courses, said Dr. Wahsh.

Cement price hikers to be punished

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Governor Fayez Al Abbadi Wednesday urged citizens to inform the concerned authorities of merchants who tamper with the price of cement. Mr. Abbadi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he asked the director general of the Jordanian Cement Factories to stop cement supplies to several merchants who hiked its prices above acceptable limits. The governor stressed that strict measures will be taken against those who sell cement for higher prices. Jordan is facing a shortage of cement in the wake of the construction boom.

Press conference on agriculture planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khasawneh will hold a press conference at the ministry Sunday to discuss issues related to the second Arab conference for the development of poultry and egg production which will be held in Amman Nov. 8. The conference will be organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries.

Seminar to discuss earthquakes

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan and 12 other Arab and European countries will take part in a seminar on earthquakes to open in Damascus Nov. 4. The three-day seminar which is organised by the Atomic Energy Agency in Syria which discuss working papers on methodology adopted in analysing data related to earthquakes through history and estimating dangers posed by earthquakes to nuclear stations and other strategic installations.

W. Bank trade delegation in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — A delegation representing the Chamber of Commerce of Ramallah and Bireh in the West Bank Wednesday visited the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce and held talks with Chamber President Ibrahim Taqi Eddin on trade ties. Mr. Taqi Eddin briefed the visiting delegation on the achievements of the chamber and the services it offers to merchants and factories in Zarqa Governorate. Head of the visiting delegation, Assad Hassaneh, briefed Mr. Taqi Eddin on problems facing the Palestinian chamber under Israeli occupation and as a result of the imposition of additional taxes by the occupation forces and the high figures of unemployment among Palestinians.

Food distributed to the poor in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba District Governor Qafan Al Majali Wednesday decided to distribute food stuffs to needy families in Aqaba district. The decision was taken in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein to help the needy in the Kingdom.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Kheir at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Omar Hamdan Shahwan at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The annual fall exhibition of Save the Children at the Haj Hassan Estate, Haj Nazal Street (open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Superman" (1978 — 143 minutes) at the American Centre — 5 p.m.



PRINCESS BASMA JOINS THE GIRL GUIDES:

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma visited Wednesday the Jordanian Engineers' Association (JEA) camp in Zarqa District where she opened a course for assistant trainers of girl guides. Princess Basma met with the participants in the week-long course and discussed with them the objectives of the course and techniques adopted in Arab countries in preparing leaders of scouts and guides. Thirty participants from Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon, as well as Jordan, are taking part in the course which is organized by the Jordanian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Society in cooperation with the International and Arab offices of girl guides.

Princess Basma was briefed by one of the senior trainers at the camp on the course programme and methods used in training leaders. The trainer told the Princess that the course was the second of its kind in the Arab world, and she stressed that such courses were important to establish bridges of cooperation between scout movements in the Arab world. Three participants from Sudan, Yemen and Lebanon delivered speeches in which they expressed a willingness to interact with scouts and guides societies in Jordan. The course includes lectures by Jordanian scout leaders, seminars on the role of developing the principles of scout movements, and the importance of team work. (Petra photo)

Engineers' pension fund faces crisis

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The president of the Jordanian Engineers' Association (JEA) complained Wednesday that the JEA pension fund faces a crisis due to the failure on the part of most engineers to pay their contributions.

Hosni Abu Ghaida told the Jordan Times that out of 28,800 registered engineers, only 2,400 are paying their contributions.

Those who have defaulted on payment and the fines imposed for their delay, have caused the association debts to the tune of JD 9 million, said Mr. Abu Ghaida.

"The less amounts of contributions the fund has, the less are the benefits for the pensioners," warned the JEA president.

A number of engineers, however, complained that it was unemployment which the lack of payments caused. One of the engineers, Mueen Alawneh, who graduated in 1988 and is now employed by private sector, said that the JEA ought to help solve the unemployment problem among the engineers so that they can have jobs to meet their financial commitments. He urged the JEA to embark on income generating projects that will employ more engineers.

Another engineer, Munther Al

Maslamani a 1984 graduate employed in the private sector, said the large amounts of fines imposed on defaulting engineers are keeping most of the engineers away from the fund. He demanded that a meeting be held by the fund's board in order to decide on cancelling the fines or reducing them. Another JEA member, Mazen Riyal, said that the engineers are being mistreated by many companies who pay them less than the average wage set by the JEA. "This ought to be discussed by the JEA board," he said.

The JEA president said that it is not only new engineers and unemployed graduates who fail to pay but also a number of engineers who have been in the profession for many years.

He said that the JEA will nevertheless, call a meeting for the fund's board to discuss the situation before the end of 1992. He said that the JEA board will propose a set of recommendations to be introduced to the JEA pension fund's regulations to ensure dealing with many of these complaints.

Among the proposals, Mr. Abu Ghaida said, will be to make the pension system optional for the JEA members and the exemption of the unemployed engineers from paying contributions until they have found work.

Zarqa, Salt prepare for winter

ZARQA (Petra) — Plans to deal with emergencies during the coming winter season were discussed by ad hoc committees in Zarqa and Salt Wednesday.

Zarqa Governor Talaat Nawaiseh said at a meeting attended by representatives of various concerned departments and civil defence units that plans are being taken to deal with damage to property and danger to people's lives from storms during the winter. The plan, he said,

entails clearing of culverts, preparing warning signals for residents to move to safer grounds and early maintenance of bridges.

According to the governor, the Public Works Department plans to set up emergency teams backed by machinery and essential equipment. The participants in the meeting reviewed the various shortcomings encountered in the past winter season so that they may be avoided this winter.

Experts advise on health specialisms

AMMAN (Petra) — Two health specialists from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Arab League ended a week-long visit to Jordan during which arrangements for training doctors in family and community medicine were discussed.

Zuhair Hallaj from WHO and Sadek Al Khazbar from the Arab Medical Specialisations Council discussed with Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh and ministry officials issues relating to the training of physicians.

Dr. Hallaj said that the visit aimed to provide advice and expertise to the Health Ministry for the training programmes of doctors in community medicine to make them eligible for a diploma at the Arab Medical Specialisations Council. He said they also discussed advice for implementing training to doctors in family medicine, a specialisation which the Health Ministry of Jordan plans to introduce soon.

Italian tour operators visit Aqaba

AMMAN — The Holiday International Hotel Aqaba received 28 Italian travel agents representing most of the important tour operators in Italy. The group, headed by Mr. Bruno Cover, the owner of the Cover Travel & Tourism Company — one of the largest Italian Tour Operators in who is marketing Jordan. The group will be staying in Aqaba for three days to look over the facilities available in Aqaba and the surrounding area such as the beaches, sports facilities, the Royal Diving Centre and Wadi Rum besides their visits to Amman.

Ensour and Mahjoub open Amman's 2nd Sudanese trade fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudan opened its second trade fair in Amman Wednesday displaying an assortment of Sudanese national products, which are being offered for sale to the public.

Minister of Industry Abdullah Ensour and visiting Sudanese Minister of State Saeed Othman Mahjoub opened the 10-day trade fair at the Amman Universal Expo Centre and inspected the items on display.

The trade fair is the result of a protocol signed by the two countries last year. On display are an assortment of leather products, sugar, cotton, handicrafts, meat, beans, cooking oil, and fruit juice, among other products.

Mr. Mahjoub earlier in the day held meetings with the presidents of the Amman chambers of industry and trade to discuss trade and economic relations. At a meeting with Khaldoun Abo Hassan, the president of the chamber of industry, the Sudanese minister said that his country has herds of more than 60 million sheep and can export meat to a number of Arab countries including Jordan.

Sudan has more than 240 million acres of arable land of which only 20 per cent has been used to date. Mr. Mahjoub stressed that Sudan investors in agriculture from various Arab states, particularly Jordan, and the country is



Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and visiting Sudanese Minister of State Saeed Othman Mahjoub Wednesday open Sudan's second trade fair in Amman (Petra photo)

especially interested in launching joint industrial ventures with Jordanian entrepreneurs.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mohammad Asfour, discussed with the Sudanese minister ways of further promoting trade between Amman and Khartoum. The Sudanese minister noted that Jordan enjoys a central geographical location and could help serve as a catalyst to promote Sudan's trade with neighbouring Arab states.

The Jordanian Sudanese trade protocol signed in 1991 provides for an exchange goods worth a total of \$70 million. The protocol provides for Sudan to sell up to 43 different products while Jordan was allowed to sell 144 types of national goods. In the past few months of this year, Sudan sold Jordan JD 2.2 million worth of products and brought JD 9.3 million of the Kingdom's goods. These included electric appliances, water pipes, clothes and furniture.

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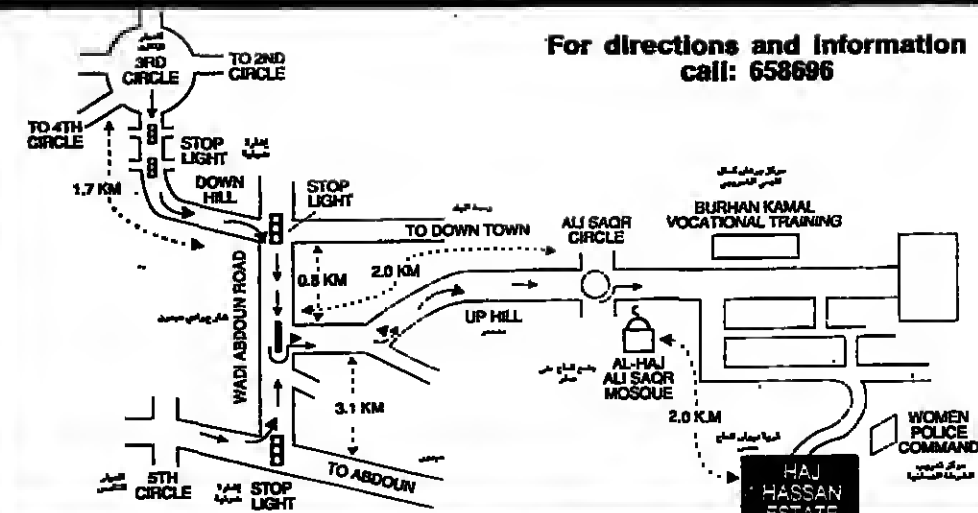
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AUSTRIAN
AIRLINES

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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Faxsimile: 661242

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Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Round at danger turn

THE SEVENTH round of peace talks in Washington between Israel and the various Arab parties can be better characterised as that which generated more tension and violence between the two sides than the one that produced breakthroughs. In a sense it might be normal to anticipate the continuation of warlike activities during peace negotiations, especially with regard to the Palestinian intifada and Lebanon. No politician would have expected the Palestinians to lay down their "arms" during the peace talks, for that would in itself deprive them of a solid bargaining card and reduce their negotiating posture to a self-defeating stance. Yet it would still be wise to take stock of the effects and after-effects of the escalation in the tensions on many Arab-Israeli fronts, the latest being the Israeli-Lebanese border where the Israeli war machine has been fully activated to strike hard at Hizbollah forces. For one thing, there are many elements in Israel who must be glowing with joy at the turn of events on their frontiers and elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is a well-known fact that the right-wing Likud Party is gloating over the recent developments because in their estimation that would be a sure way to abort the peace process before it even gets going. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir did not even try to conceal his real intentions earlier this year. He stated publicly that during his term of office he was dragging his feet on the negotiations that were supposed to lead to giving the Palestinians self-rule and that he was in fact procrastinating other issues all along. So clearly anti-peace factions in Israel are content with the hardening of positions on both sides of the fence because they believe that is the sure way to deal a death blow to the entire peace effort. On the Arab side, there are admittedly also many factions that never wanted the peace process to get off the ground in the first place because only in a climate of frustration and despair would their ideologies and ambitions thrive. So while rejoicing at the prospect of renewed tensions in the region and the increased chances of stalemate in all tracks, the leaderships on both sides must weigh very carefully the consequences of their policies on the one and only remaining path to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is high time also to try to measure accurately the repercussions of any set of future policies on the peace talks. More important and relevant still is the implication of such seemingly well calculated policies on the peoples of the region including of course the Israelis themselves. It would naturally be correct to assume that the Arab side wants the negotiations to bear fruit at the end of the negotiating process. There are growing fears therefore that should the ongoing search for a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arab parties fails the alternative would be more bloodshed, strife and instability in this part of the world. That is why it is healthier and more useful for everybody concerned to cool things off instead of heating them up. What is needed is to give peace a chance and to build a climate of conciliation and accommodation that could help us all look and move forward.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday described the events in southern Lebanon as a new round of negotiations between Lebanon and the Israelis. There are no fears for the Middle East peace process because of the resistance activities against the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory since only force can make the occupation forces understand that the Lebanese are determined to liberate their homeland, said the paper. The resistance activities against the Israeli presence on Lebanese soil, said the paper, is an embodiment of the resolve of the people of Lebanon to live with honour or die sacrificing their souls in defence of the homeland. Every bullet and every rocket fired on the occupation forces in South Lebanon and in Palestine speak louder than words exchanged at the peace talks and underlines the need for the world community to ensure the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and to guarantee the international legitimacy, continued the daily. The fight against the Israeli presence in Lebanon gives the Lebanese negotiators in Washington more self-confidence and more support for their endeavours to ensure an end of occupation, the paper said. The Lebanese resistance forces are armed with faith and resolve in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy persisting in their drive to evict the occupation forces regardless of their military superiority and the sacrifices that have to be offered in the process of liberation, the paper said. Therefore, the paper concluded, there is hope that through the dialogue in Washington and backed by the courageous resistance activities in southern Lebanon, the Israelis would realise that they cannot continue holding on to occupied lands.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the question of caring for the old people of Jordan, noting that the country lacks appropriate facilities and services for this kind of care. The public is being educated enough about the need for caring for the old people to deal with the gap separating the old from the young nor is research work conducted in the field of caring for the old people by any institution, said Salah Abdul Samad. The writer said that the old people, who once handled the affairs of their own families and the country at large, ought to be offered care that reflects the community's respect for their old age and should be helped to fill their time with something useful for themselves and their families. The old men and women have offered sacrifice, toiled for many years and served their community.

Are Israeli-Palestinian peace talks unraveling?

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A year after the Madrid Middle East conference opened a new era of Arab-Israeli peace talks, there are signs that negotiations between Israel and Palestinians may be in danger of unraveling, officials and diplomats say.

The parties are holding their seventh round of bargaining since the process began, but have made virtually no progress. Worse, they may even be regressing.

U.S. officials said the Palestinians were now questioning the very foundation of the talks — the fact that they aim at a five-year interim agreement on governing Israeli-occupied Palestinian areas rather than a final peace settlement.

The Palestinians have demanded an Israeli commitment to the principle of eventual withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem as embodied, in their view, in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The Israelis, with the backing of U.S. officials, say this violates the ground rules of the negotiations.

"If the Palestinians continue to insist there has to be an element of Israeli withdrawal, it is going to undermine the talks," said Robert Satloff, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

When the talks started, all sides believed the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would proceed faster than Israel's parallel discussions with Syria, Jordan or Lebanon.

"Look for progress in the Israeli-Palestinian talks," said then-Secretary of State James Baker.

The chief Palestinian delegate, Haidar Abdul Shafi, began the first session by uttering what Mr. Satloff said were five magic words: That talks could progress "without prejudice to final status."

Those words made everything seem possible. The parties could negotiate on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and leave the question of who

should ultimately rule the land until later.

But negotiations then entered a long period of procedural squabbling and the sides lost several valuable months.

The election of a more moderate Israeli government under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last June also did nothing to help things along.

Mr. Rabin seemed to concentrate on Israel's negotiations with Syria and stated that Resolution 242 applied to the occupied Golan Heights. The Palestinians promptly demanded a similar commitment for the West Bank and Gaza.

Now, with the Palestinians divided and under pressure from rejectionists inside and outside the territories and with violence raging in the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinians seem to have gone back on Abdul Shafi's initial key statement.

"The final outcome should not be left with all the possible options," said Palestinian delegate Ghassan Kattib at a media briefing last week.

"For example, the option of (Israeli) annexation in the final status shouldn't be one of the options open. Any other option that doesn't include the element of the Israeli withdrawal in principle shouldn't be one of the open options," he said.

In other words, Israel should accept the principle of withdrawal now. But Israeli officials say the negotiations can only work if all options on the final status of the land are left open. Otherwise, they say, what does the concept of an interim settlement mean?

"Our one hope is to persuade them that in the end they will lose everything," said one Israeli official. "They run the risk of being left behind."

The possible election of Democrat Bill Clinton as U.S. president may help keep the talks afloat for a while longer. All sides want to see if his administration has any fresh ideas or intentions.

But if the negotiations remain stuck into next year, time may indeed run out for the Palestinians yet again.

Morocco — an enmeshing of modern and traditional

By Izzat R. Dajani

The visit to Jordan by His Majesty King Hassan II has conjured up many memories of Morocco in my mind and heart alike.

In March 1990 I was part of a group of professionals from over 35 developing nations nominated to visit the country. We were all preparing for higher degrees at Harvard University which took special interest in the various aspects of development in Morocco and hence fully sponsored, organised and synchronised the trip which proved memorable.

Morocco is no place one can visit and forget easily. It is a place famed for its many and differing "firsts."

Morocco was the very first country in the world to recognise formally the independence of the United States of America. It is also believed that a Moroccan was the first to spread Islam in the U.S. According to a citation read by the renowned Professor Khalid Abdul Hadi Yahya in "The Purpose of Existence," there was a black man, called Nemredo, who was given a mission by the Moroccan king to spread Islam in America. Nemredo, the citation claimed, started his work between the years 1900 and 1920. The story was never confirmed or authenticated, but remains interesting and worthy of further studies.

Another important "first" is the famous University of the Quaraouyine at Fes, which was founded by Yahia Ben Idriss and recognised as one of the very first universities of the world.

Fes is magnificently made up by two cities: The ancient one, Fes El Bali (Medina), of Islamic origin, the other, Fes Jdid (New Fes), which was founded by the Merinids in the 13th Century. Medina is certainly minute by any standard for a city, but it contains a fantastic aggregate of more than 4,000 tiny roads and passageways, wide enough for people, with only the occasional donkeys, the sole method of transport.

Morocco is also the country of contradictions and disparities. The extremely poor live side by side with the fantastically rich as

much as the ultra modern find comforting co-existence with the most traditional, be it cultural, architectural or archaeological in nature.

Morocco is situated at the north-west corner of Africa with an area extending well over 710,000 square kilometres. It has nearly 3,500 kilometres of coast on both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. It is a constitutional monarchy with Rabat as the administrative capital and seat of government, and Casablanca the economic one. Its population is in excess of 25 million people, of which more than 50 per cent are under the age of 19. Fertility and population growth rate among the highest in the world. It is estimated that there is on average one birth every minute. Nearly half the population remain illiterate despite all efforts by the government.

The per-capita gross domestic product is on average between \$600-\$800. The main exports are gross phosphates, manufactured garments, leather goods, fruits and vegetables, fresh and canned fish. Still, there is a trade deficit as the country is a large importer of petroleum, semi-products and capital goods among other things.

Urbanisation is a marked phenomenon in Morocco. The main indicators of the present urban system is either total rupture or structural discontinuity. Unable to control its own growth, there is continuous destruction of the countryside, with a devaluing of peasant culture. The rates of this urbanisation explosion have increased from as little as 10 per cent in the early 1900s to the fantastic figure of 50 per cent in the 1980s. Large cities register 6-7 per cent growth every year. It is worth noting for example that Casablanca doubles its population every 10 years, with a current estimated population of two million people.

It must be sadly mentioned that in Morocco half the population live in impoverished slums. Unemployment and underemployment are high, resulting in relatively low standards of living.



King Hassan II

"Morocco is the country of contradictions and disparities. The extremely poor live side by side with the fantastically rich as much as the ultra modern find comforting co-existence with the most traditional."

The health of the poor is gravely deficient as there is malnourishment in both infants and adults.

In Rabat, the population increased by over 60 per cent from the year 1960 to 1971. There were many concerted efforts by the government to provide housing and improve the urban environment. Yet the housing situation in Rabat continued to deteriorate, leading in turn to the government abandoning the direct construction

of housing and emphasising self-help housing. Rabat, the seat of government, is particularly attractive to people. By 1971, almost half of the residents of Rabat-Sale were migrants. The social fabric of the city was and still is heavily burdened. Legal construction remained limited as it was oriented towards the rich or the financially comfortable minority. Illegal construction is filling the gap between demand and supply. However, architecturally there is always a fantastic degree of reference to the local Arab-Islamic culture in Morocco. Historic city centres are preserved, as much as the characters of these cities, despite the many constraints upon the government's efforts in upgrading and developing them encounters so as to try and improve the living conditions of their inhabitants. Yet, Moroccan cities, as most cities in the Middle East, lack public gardens, parks, children's play grounds and public conveniences.

King Hassan's acumen at preserving culture and promoting architectural expression is key to preserving the Arab-Islamic character of the cities. Moroccans take pride in adhering to their national costumes, particularly during ceremonies and feasts. Local cultural centres are constantly supported by the government. Traditional handicrafts, particularly in the Medina of every city, are highly preserved and promoted by the responsible authorities.

Architecturally, one constantly observes good designs with cultural appropriateness, helping to appreciate the cultural identity of the Moroccan society and country. The Aga Khan Memorandum of 1989 stressed that Middle Eastern societies are largely Muslim and there should be a contemporary architectural expression that accommodates the pre-requisites of modern life while maintaining and enhancing the cultural authority of the evolving Islamic environment. This is beyond any doubt beautifully and superbly expressed in Morocco.

Rabin compares Israel and the Palestinians with Turkey, Iran and Iraq vis-a-vis the Kurds. This is a specious comparison as Turks, Iranians, Iraqis and Kurds have been living together in the same geographic area for ages while Israel is a recent creation composed in its great majority of foreign Jews who came from the four corners of the world and who, as a result of international intrigue and the Arab World's weakness, were able to roil Palestine of its original inhabitants.

Rabin overlooks this fact and the fact that the majority of Jews of present Israel were foreigners who came to live in Palestine only recently. In fact in 1920 the Jews in Palestine were an insignificant minority; there were only 83,000 Jews while the Palestinian Arabs counted 660,000. In 1948 the Jews of Palestine counted 600,000, the majority of whom were recent immigrants forced upon the Palestinians by the now-lamented British mandate authorities, while the Palestinian Arabs were 1,200,000 (one million and two hundred thousand). Thus, in its great majority, present Israel's Jewish population is composed of foreign Jews who came from the Arab states and especially from the ex-Soviet and the Eastern European states as shown below.

The Jews of the communist bloc and even those of the Arab states were neither related to Palestine nor even to Judaism.

Palestinians are entitled to national rights, self-determination

By Pascal B. Karmy

A FEW days ago Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, gave a long statement to the French newspaper Le Monde in which, among other matters, he described the state of development of the negotiations between the Arabs and Israel and spoke about contact with the PLO and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

To the question put to him by the Le Monde correspondent about the national rights of the Palestinians, he replied that he did not know what those rights are and added that there are many religious, political and even national entities which have no right to self-determination. He cites as an example the Basque people and asks: "Will Iraq, Turkey and Iran recognise the national rights of fifteen million Kurds?"

The thrust of Mr. Rabin's question is to induce the reader to believe that Israel need not recognise the national rights and the right to self-determination of the Palestinians, who count only about two million people (in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, not counting the ones in the diaspora who count about three million), just as the above-mentioned countries will not recognise the national rights of the Kurds who total fifteen million people.

It is not for me to answer the question of whether or not the Kurds are entitled to exercise the right of self-determination and consequently to an independent national entity, although one cannot honestly deny that they have national rights. Indeed the Kurds are a homogenous people living in a more or less defined geographic space, they are of a different race from the Turks, the Iranians or the Arabs and have their own distinctive culture and language.

But Rabin compares Israel and the Palestinians with Turkey, Iran and Iraq vis-a-vis the Kurds. This is a specious comparison as Turks, Iranians, Iraqis and Kurds have been living together in the same geographic area for ages while Israel is a recent creation composed in its great majority of foreign Jews who came from the four corners of the world and who, as a result of international intrigue and the Arab World's weakness, were able to roil Palestine of its original inhabitants.

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The Jews of the communist bloc and even those of the Arab states were neither related to Palestine nor even to Judaism.

It is indeed preposterous on the part of Rabin to say that he does not know what the national rights of the Palestinians are and to implicitly deny the right of self-determination to other distinct nationalities as if the Jews alone were entitled to those rights. Perhaps Rabin, like many other Jews and some irrational Zionist Christian Communities in the U.S., still believe in the Biblical myth that the Jews are the chosen people of God.

There cannot be a durable peace in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in our region unless and until Israel unambiguously recognises the national rights of the Palestinians, including the right to self-determination. If the foreign Jews of Israel have national rights and have exercised their right to self-determination, with yet stronger reason, the Palestinians have indubitably the same rights.

Death-squad threats to kill rebels may scuttle peace in El Salvador

By Annie Cabrera
The Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — A rightist death squad's threat to kill leftist rebel leaders has heightened tension in El Salvador, menacing a fragile peace process in this war-torn central American nation.

Guerrilla chiefs dug in at their 15 stronghold camps over the weekend, placed their remaining fighters on alert and accused President Alfredo Cristiani's conservative government of being in cahoots with the death squads.

A presidential spokesman retorted that "intelligence reports" showed the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas were secretly planning to assassinate a number of government officials.

As tension rose, the average Salvadoran began fearing the January peace accords could collapse and violence erupt again after a cease-fire that ended more than 12 years of civil war expires Saturday. It is also the deadline to complete the terms of the

peace plan.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has been consulting with the Security Council and delegates of a group of countries interested in keeping the peace in El Salvador about the possibility of extending the cease-fire.

According to sources, the FMLN would be willing to accept such an extension.

But Mr. Cristiani's administration, beset with the delicate task of purging the military of human rights violators, seemed to be dead-set against it.

So are many among the military and in Mr. Cristiani's Republican Nationalist Alliance, also known as ARENA, which in the past had strong ties with security forces and the death squads.

The Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Brigade, which has threatened to begin to "execute" what it called "political traitors" on Oct. 31, is one of several death squads linked to the military and responsible for a great number of the more than 75,000 civil war deaths.

A majority of the victims were

civilians, suspected of leftist sympathies and slain in the early 1980s. Death squad activities visibly subsided by the late 1980s, although not completely.

The brigade has said in a statement that the peace accords gave too many concessions to the rebel "terrorists," creating an "intolerable situation" by "purging our glorious armed forces."

Its hit list included U.N. officials in the country to supervise disarmament and enforcement of the accords, leftist politicians, Salvadoran journalists and foreign correspondents.

As part of the peace accords, rebel and government leaders agreed Oct. 16 to a U.N. proposal to distribute land to an estimated 15,000 government soldiers, 7,500 demobilised rebels and 25,000 squatters — rebel sympathisers who firmed land abandoned by their owners during the war.

Another part of the accords was to demobilise all five of the army's anti-guerrilla rapid deployment battalions at about the same time the rebels disarmed

their men, and to purge the 2,300-member officer corps of human rights violators and bring them to justice.

But when forensic experts at a secret burial site began unearthing the skeletons of victims of the worst massacre of civilians in the civil war, the military appeared upset.

About 1,080 civilians are believed to have been killed in 1981 at El Mozote and five other hamlets in a remote northeastern region of El Salvador. The Roman Catholic Church blamed the U.S.-trained Atlacatl anti-guerrilla battalion for it and said most of the victims were women, children and elderly.

At about the same time, Mr. Cristiani suspended the demobilisation of the three remaining anti-guerrilla battalions. The rebels responded by refusing to disarm about 5,000 of their remaining fighters, or 60 per cent of their original force.

The New York Times has reported that a special commission of three foreign dignitaries investigating the military has turned



over to Mr. Cristiani a confidential list of officers to be purged "for reasons including human rights violations."

Included are the defense minister, his deputy minister and more than 110 officers, the newspaper said, quoting unidentified sources familiar with the list.

The purge orders, seen as one of the most serious tests of civilian authority over the armed forces, have raised tensions to a new level here as a series of important deadlines set forth in

the peace accord reached last year slip by," the newspaper added.

As they have in the past, the United States and other nations interested in the region are expected to pressure both sides to go back to the negotiating table to settle their differences.

The United States has poured in about \$6 billion of military and economic aid to buttress a succession of friendly governments during the past 12 years against the guerrillas' fight.

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Weekender

Oct. 29, 1992 **A**

Published Every Thursday

Saadawi: State fundamentalism is most dangerous

By Samira Kassar
Special to the Jordan Times

The Egyptian writer and feminist, Nawal Al Saadawi, who was recently in London to participate in an Arab cultural week at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) spoke to the Jordan Times about the problems she believes that Arab women, feminists and intellectuals will confront in the post-Gulf war era.

Question: In your talk at the ICA, you said that politics and religion were one and the same thing. Can you elaborate on it?

Saadawi: This so-called separation between literary issues and political issues is false, and I don't agree with this philosophy. We are taught in university to fragment. Our education doesn't give knowledge, it gives us professions, training us into very good technicians or very good physicians. It doesn't make us human beings who are really knowledgeable about our lives. People ask me all the time why I write novels, why I went to jail and so many other questions. I tell them that it's natural for me to write. I'm a medical doctor, but I read religion, politics and history and I became aware of politics and that's why I cannot separate.

Q: How would you describe yourself? As a feminist? As an artist? As a political writer? How do you see yourself?

Saadawi: All of these things. I see myself as a human being, a society, in a historical period. Usually I call myself a political socialist feminist. I use these three words together to describe myself because quite a lot of people here in the West think that feminism is a Western invention, and that socialism is invented by the West, and that democracy was invented in the West. This is not true. The more I read about our history in Egypt and the Arab World, the more I discover that we have a long, long history of feminism or women's liberation, a long history of fighting against class and male domination. So I call myself historical because I am inspired by my history, by the roots of my village people, by my mothers and grandmothers. The more I read history, the more I feel that we are continuing the struggle of our mothers and the people before us. We are not imitating the West. I call myself socialist, because I am against class oppression. I am a Marxist because I don't belong to Marxism; and I'm a feminist because I'm against the male domination and patriarchal oppression.

Q: What are the issues confronting feminists in the Arab world today?

Saadawi: First of all, the so-called "New World Order," or international order. We are now entering a very, very turbulent phase in our life. We are now becoming the new colony after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We are among the new colonies. The Arab region is militarily invaded by the Americans after the Gulf War. We are also economically invaded and we live in an economic crisis. We are burdened by foreign debts, and the interest we pay on them is more than the debts themselves. We suffer double standards in relation to politics and the United Nations. We call the United Nations "The United Nations of America" because the way they are solving conflicts in our region is based on double standards. They hurry to fight and military weapons against Iraq, but they are so reluctant to be friendly towards Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and Lebanese. They use negotiations to try to solve the Israeli conflict and they resort to force and killing to solve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi conflict. We are becoming the victims of this American-West European economic and political invasion of our region. The media is very Americanized in our region and in Europe, and they call this state of affairs the "New World Order." The poor, women and minority groups are very much affected by this new world order because the gap between classes increases, the gap between sexes increases, and the gap between minorities and ethnic groups increases.

Q: Can you give specific examples of how the New World Order is affecting women in the Arab World?

Saadawi: I'll refer to three concrete examples: First: Because of the economic crisis, the rate of unemployment is growing in Egypt, in the Arab World, and everywhere. Instead of treating such unemployment by development and increasing agricultural and industrial development, the easy way of dismissing women and the poor in the labour force is resorted to. That's why women are encouraged at all to work. We are told to go back home where there are not enough jobs for men and women. Secondly: Fundamentalism. There is a revival of religion — fundamentalism is a universal phenomenon. There is Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, Muslim fundamentalism and Hindu fundamentalism. In our region, Islamic fundamentalism is very visible. The fundamentalists veil and seclude women. Christians, such as the Copts in Egypt, resort to the same methods against women. The veil is Islamic. The veil is pre-Islamic, pre-Christian, pre-Jewish, it is reflected in the three religions.

Islamic fundamentalism movement is political and economic in nature, but it raises religious slogans and hides behind religion, and it affects women negatively.

Thirdly, the closure of our association. You know we dissolved the Arab Women's Solidarity Association in 1982 at the international and pan-Arab level and we had status with the United Nations. The Egyptian branch was registered with the government in 1985, and we had a lot of problems with the government because we are independent and non-governmental. After the Gulf War and the establishment of the so-called new world order, we were closed down because we had a very independent position which differed from that of the Egyptian government. We were against the war, while the Egyptian government sent troops to the war. Our stand was interpreted as being against the country. We opposed the war because our analysis was that the war was a disaster and it was fought for oil, not the liberation of Kuwait. We saw it as part of a new imperialist order against the Arabs, fought because of oil and money, not to preserve human rights and democracy. So we spoke out. We organised a demonstration in Cairo and we made a statement. So they

considered that we should be punished. The second reason for the closing down of our association was that we were critical of Saudi Arabia and some of its religious leaders, who tried to dominate the Arab World and to say that women should be veiled and to cover all their faces except half an eye. Some of the Saudi women who participated in the women drivers' demonstration in Riyadh in November 1990 to demand drivers' licenses were members of our association. So Saudi Arabia pressured the Ministry of Social Affairs in Egypt to close down our association.

Q: What reasons did they give for closing down the association?

Saadawi: No reason. When I received the letter ordering the closure of the association, it contained no reasons, so we went to court on the grounds that they had closed down the association without giving reasons. Then the Ministry of Social Affairs started publishing accounts in the newspapers in June 1991 alleging that it had closed down the association because it had made many administrative and financial mistakes. We were astonished and replied that if this had been the case, there should have been an investigation, because the law on associations in Egypt requires such an investigation if such mistakes have indeed occurred. If an investigation proves that such mistakes were really made, then those responsible are dismissed, or the association's entire board is changed, but the entire association itself cannot be dissolved. The investigation never took place, and they just banned the association. The government then dropped the claim that administrative and financial mistakes were made and suddenly began to say that the association had been closed for political reasons because it had been against the Gulf War. Then it dropped this last reason as well and said it was because the association had issued a magazine, which the government claimed was against Islam and the prevalent moral code because it had attacked some high-level religious figures in Saudi Arabia. The government kept changing the reasons for closing down our association, but officially on paper when I received the letter informing me that the association was dissolved, no reasons were given. That is why we took the Ministry of Social Affairs to court and the case is continuing. The sessions keep getting postponed. The last session was on Sept. 28. We have 12 lawyers who are working on the case on a voluntary basis and many groups in Egypt and the Arab World are supporting us. Our lawyers say that it may take two or three years to get a court ruling, but we are patient and we are waiting and continue to struggle to get our association back.

Q: The Egyptian government itself seems to be having severe problems with Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt, so it is surprising that it would close down an association like yours, which is trying to fight the negative aspects of Islamic fundamentalism on the ground. How do you explain this apparent contradiction?

Saadawi: It's very simple, fundamentalism in Egypt, Algeria, Sudan and in almost all the Arab countries, is what we call "State Fundamentalism." It is encouraged by the state. It was (President Anwar) Sadat who encouraged the fundamentalist groups in Egypt during the seventies to neutralise the Nasserite, Socialist and leftist groups. When the fundamentalists reached a certain level of power and opposed him over the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel, he jailed them all. Then they killed him as the son kills the father. This happened in almost all Arab countries. So we call it state fundamentalism.

Q: This may have been true a few years ago, but how come they are still supporting fundamentalism, as you say?

Saadawi: Well, it's paradoxical. They support them with one hand and they fight them with the other hand. They support them because that is also the American policy. They support them because they need them against their main enemy, which is the leftist groups.

Q: But the left has lost a lot of ground in the post-cold war era.

Saadawi: Yes, but they are still afraid of the poor. You know the left is there because the left is not the Soviet Union. The left is not the Marxists or the Communists or the professional politicians. The left is the poor who are starving. The gap between the rich and the poor has increased. As long as you have poverty, you have millions of people whose basic needs are not being met and millions of unemployed on the streets, so the Arab governments and America are afraid of the left, because that is the real left, not the dogmatic professional left. The poor are the real left, and women also. So they are afraid of a revolution by the hungry people. That is the fear. So they try to use religion to control them. They use fundamentalism. That is why most of the fundamentalist movements speak a great deal about the veiling of women and neglect other major issues such as imperialism and colonialism. Saudi Arabia, for example, is one of the fundamentalist states in the region. Although the Saudis are having a difficult time with their own fundamentalists within the country, they encourage fundamentalism outside Saudi Arabia. At the same time, the Saudis are pro-American and support pro-American policies in the region. Yet they are fundamentalists and are very afraid of the left and the poor. So they represent a class patriarchal system which is trying to stabilise itself and to use God to justify injustices and to justify poverty and to justify the gap between classes and the gap between sexes. They use God to veil both women and men — I mean here to veil the minds of men and women. The physical veil is less dangerous than the mental veil and the psychological veil.

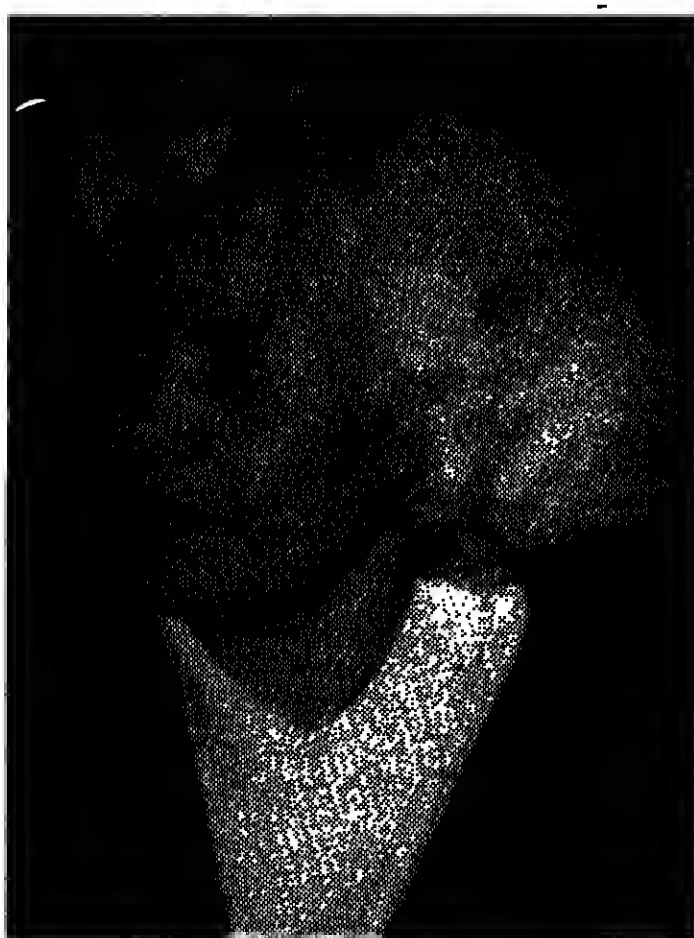
In fact that is the paradox: American policy and local governments in the region encourage fundamentalism with one hand, but they fight them because they are afraid of them. When the fundamentalists attain a certain degree of power, they try to topple the government because they need power, so governments end up fighting them.

Q: Fundamentalism not only affects women in the Arab World, it affects the entire situation. What, in your view, are its wider effects on the Arab World?

Saadawi: I think that the most dangerous fundamentalist groups are those which derive power from the state or groups within the state — groups in Saudi Arabia, groups in Kuwait, groups within different Arab regimes — because they have a lot of power and a lot of money.

Q: How do you mean within the state?

Saadawi: In the government, I mean in the regime. They



Nawal Al Saadawi

are governmental, more or less. They have a bridge with the government, and they have a lot of funds and power — political and economic power. Those groups are very dangerous and they do not criticise colonialism and imperialism. They didn't take a stand on the Gulf War. They are politically neutral, and they try to concentrate on the most backward interpretation of religion — veiling of women, seclusion of women, etc. — and they never speak about class oppression or colonialism. This is why they are dangerous. Sometimes, one tries to expose them by asking them why they are wasting time on the veiling of women and other ritual superficialities, and not speaking about major issues like unemployment, poverty, colonialism, imperialism. So they are exposed. Some of them are pushed to kill. So those are dangerous people.

Q: Are you referring to the assassination of the Egyptian author Farag Fudah in that connection?

Saadawi: Yes. Farag Fudah was killed by one of those groups that are very fanatic, very right-wing. We don't know until now who killed him, but most probably it is such a group.

Q: What about the political aftermath of the Gulf war in the Arab World. There seems to be a swing away from Arab nationalism. The new world order seems to be causing Arab states to drift apart and to have different goals from one another.

Saadawi: That is exactly the American policy in our region and they have a plan of divide and rule. They want to divide the region and take its riches, especially oil. They want to weaken the Arab region by dividing it. They divide it by any means, even by religion. That's why they encourage religious strife. For example the war in Lebanon. The implanting of Israel in our region was because of the region's oil. It's a colonial plan.

How do you see it unfolding?

Saadawi: They want to divide Iraq. At the beginning when the West started fighting Iraq, it said it was doing so to protect Saudi Arabia. Then it said they were liberating Kuwait. Now it is saying it wants to divide Iraq. You see how the plan unfolds? They have a hidden agenda all the time. Their aim was not to liberate Kuwait. Kuwait is not liberated at all. They also have a hidden agenda on Iran, if one thinks back on how the West pushed Iraq into fighting Iran. They want to divide Iran because Iran is a big power amongst the oil-rich countries. Since the nationalisation of oil in Iran during the Musaddaq period, the West began to fear Iran, and they were encouraging fundamentalism there to fight against the left. So American and European colonial policy towards the region is to divide and exploit it. As a matter of fact, they are doing that very, very efficiently, not because we are stupid as people, but because our governments submit to this and work with them.

Q: How effectively do you think that Arab intellectuals like yourself are able to counter this?

Saadawi: By writing. By organising. Women's groups and others which want to change our lives for the better have to do

something and work together. We shouldn't escape and be afraid and live abroad. I am trying very hard to stay in Egypt and fight there and write there. In spite of everything, I have been writing and struggling in Egypt for almost 40 years. I am pushed by many threats to go away, but we have to stay there and fight our battle and also collaborate with other progressive groups at the pan-Arab and international levels because there are many progressive groups which are fighting the same battle everywhere. We can win because we are the majority. I think that the majority of people in the Arab region are fed-up with their governments and with Western interference and they need a new life, new hope.

Q: Could you elaborate on the threats that you face?

Saadawi: A lot of people tell me that I am in danger, but I don't feel it. When Farag Fudah was assassinated on June 8 this year, the government sent bodyguards to protect me at 2 a.m., only a few hours after the assassination. I had not heard about the assassination and I asked why they had come. They said they were there to protect my life and they told me that Farag Fudah had been assassinated by a fundamentalist group. It was only a few hours after Farag Fudah's assassination. They said writers whose names were on the "death list" were also being protected. I have never directly seen such a list, but that's what the police told me. We never really know who is threatening us as writers. They keep us in the dark. However, we hear that Saudi Arabia has a "death list." In London, Riyadh Al Rayyes published in his magazine, *Al Naqad*, a list issued by Saudi Arabia which included the names of almost 50 poets and writers like Adonis, myself and others in the Arab World. In fact, I tend not to believe all that. I think that fundamentalism in our region is state fundamentalism and it is also connected with the international colonial power. I think there are a lot of powers which are afraid of knowledgeable intellectuals in the Arab World — men and women who can speak up and who are against the West, colonialism, class differences and the division of the Arab World and who support secularisation in the sense of separating religion and the state. Those writers, who are considered progressive, are a real threat to the whole plan to divide the region, so they have to be gotten rid of. Such intellectuals are not only threatened by the Islamic fundamentalists, but by many other groups.

Q: Don't you worry that the Saudis, who have a great deal of financial power and are getting into the media in a big way, can silence people like you just by buying up newspapers, publishing houses and other media organisations?

Saadawi: It's a real danger that this is happening. For instance, when our association was closed, there were a lot of individuals and groups who supported us, but they kept silent because some of them were paid by Saudi Arabia. Also, big newspapers depend on advertisements coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and they are not ready to lose the money they receive from such advertisements by defending me or my group, so they stay silent. Sometimes, orders come from Saudi Arabia which actually say: "Do not publish anything by so and so. Do not defend the cause of so and so." Journalists and writers receive such orders in different ways, and they are paid directly and indirectly. That's why things are becoming very, very difficult. We live now in what I call the petrodollar cultural era. The petrodollar is buying everything: Newspapers, television stations, radio stations and magazines, and it is closing down others. They got our magazine closed down because it criticised some high-level religious people in Saudi Arabia. Also, they create attacks and rumours against you. If you are a woman, they say you are against Islam, corrupt, support promiscuity and sexual liberation because the unveiling of women to them means promiscuity. They then use their media to propagate those attacks on individuals. But fortunately, in our region, people have brains. I have been under attack for almost 30 years. When my books were translated and I began to become well-known in the West after 1980, the attacks increased against me and against people like me. But we don't care and we are going on. There is no way back.

Q: Do you think intellectuals who are threatened in the Arab World should live abroad where they are less threatened and can express themselves more freely?

Saadawi: We have to stay in our countries regardless of the danger. Just before I was imprisoned by Sadat, people advised me to leave the country and I stayed and went to prison because I felt it was better to be in prison in Egypt than to live in exile. I think I am going to live in Egypt all my life. When I came out of Egypt, I feel like a fish coming out of the sea. Also, I am inspired by people in my country, the sweat, the smell of the air, my childhood and many other things. I cannot write a novel except in Egypt. I can write an essay or a scientific book wherever I may be, but to write fiction or a novel, I have to be in Egypt. So I tend more towards staying and I also encourage others to stay because there you can struggle. But you can struggle abroad also, and there are many Arab and African people who are fighting their battles here. If one cannot stay in one's country and one is in danger and is paralysed and silenced, then it is useless to stay in one's country and one should leave and fight from abroad.

New use for abortion pill unlikely to speed access in U.S.

By Daniel Q. Haney

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The discovery that the French abortion pill is also a highly effective morning-after contraceptive is unlikely to bring the treatment any closer to availability in the United States, experts said.

A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found the pill RU-486 completely effective in preventing pregnancy when women took it within three days of having unprotected intercourse.

This represents an entirely new use for the pill, which until now has been approved in a few countries to induce abortions early in pregnancy. However, physicians, stock analysts and others interested in the pill say they doubt its maker will seek approval for it in the United States any time soon.

Anti-abortion groups said they considered RU-486 to be an abortifacient if used immediately after intercourse to prevent the development of a fertilised egg.

RU-486 is made by Roussel-Uclaf, a French subsidiary of the German drug firm Hoechst AG. It has not asked permission from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to sell the drug in the United States.

Dr. Andre Ullman, the company's medical director, could not be reached for comment. However, the company has said repeatedly it will not sell the medicine in any country with wide hostility to abortion.

Stock analysts said the

company is unwilling to leave itself open to boycotts and other actions by anti-abortion groups if it asks approval to sell RU-486.

Whether the drug might someday be approved for other medical conditions is less clear. Gary Fendler, an FDA spokesman, said the agency has approved 19 requests for experimental use of the drug against a variety of diseases. He said Roussel-Uclaf is cooperating with these studies by supplying the drug.

Images from campaign '92: Potatoes, chicken wars and tea and cookies

By The Associated Press

LONG after you've forgotten what George Bush and Bill Clinton didn't like about each other, other images from 1992 may endure. Like: Potato-with-an-E, the pander bear, Murphy Brown and "don't cry for me, Argentina."

That is the stuff campaign memories are made of. Trip along down campaign memory lane: There was that day when Mr. Bush was enamored of a line from a country-and-western song by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band: "If you want to see a rainbow, you've got to stand a little rain."

After the 10th repetition, or maybe the 15th, Mr. Bush gets tongue-tied and invents a new musical organization, crediting the line to "the Nitty Ditty Gritty Bitty Great Band."

Just after the most famous barfing incident in the history of diplomacy — the presidential vomit in the lap of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa — reporters irritate Mr. Bush with health questions. Exasperated, the president finally blurts: "Don't cry for me, Argentina jeez, you get the flu and they make it into a federal case."

Blowing smoke: "When I was in England, I experimented with marijuana a time or two, and I didn't like it," says Mr. Clinton. "I didn't inhale."

Quote: "I'm certainly going into this as a dog-eat-dog fight, and I will do what I have to do to be reelected," George Bush.

Much of the campaign has that true confessions feel. The report alleging Mr. Clinton had extramarital affairs surfaces in the Star, a weekly supermarket tabloid, and the Arkansas governor tries to brush it off: "The Star says Martians walk on the Earth and people have cow's heads," he says.

Mr. Clinton and wife Hillary appear on 60 Minutes on CBS: "I have acknowledged causing pain in my marriage," he says. Says the loyal wife: "I love him, and I respect him and I honour what he's been through and what we've been through together...If that's not enough for people, then heck, don't vote for him."

Mr. Clinton is caught up by another issue that dogs him the rest of the campaign. The Wall Street Journal tells how Mr. Clinton avoided serving in the armed forces during the Vietnam era. Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, another presidential contender, says Mr. Clinton's explanation lacks the "ring of truth."

Mr. Clinton's lament: He's haunted by "a woman I didn't sleep with and a draft I didn't dodge." Telling images: Mr. Bush, trying to show he cares, goes

into a J.C. Penney store to buy socks...Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa uses an eight-letter word beginning with bull so often to describe Bush rhetoric that some audiences begin shouting out the word before he gets to it...Paul Tsongas holds up a teddy bear and suggests that Mr. Clinton is a "pander bear" for taking any position that pleases crowds. The Bush camp reprises the theme, dispatching a man dressed as a pander bear to Clinton events.

Promise revisited: "Read my lips, no new taxes," said George Bush in 1988. "Listen, if I had to do it over again, I wouldn't do it," says George Bush in 1992 of the pledge. "Look at all the flak it's taking."

Family values are the stars of the Republican National Convention, but Vice President Dan Quayle gets more attention when he criticizes the example of Murphy Brown, a television character who chose to have a child out of wedlock. To make peace, Mr. Quayle sends the fictional babe a stuffed toy elephant.

Tea and cookies: Early on, Hillary Clinton defends her legal career and sniffs that she could have stayed home to "bake cookies and serve tea." Later, she goes cookie-to-cookie against Barbara Bush and wins hands down in Family Circle's "bipartisan bakeoff."

The great chicken war: Clinton backers dressed as chickens show up at Bush events to tweak the president for refusing to agree to proposed debates. Poultry-clad Bush supporters return the favour, tweaking Mr. Clinton for avoiding service in Vietnam.

Memorable TV debate exchange: Bush: "I've never understood quite why Mr. Perot was upset about it (foreign lobbyists working in the Bush campaign) because one of the guys he used to have working for him, I believe, had foreign accounts." Mr. Perot: "And as soon as I found it out, he went out the door."

Even better TV debate exchange: Mr. Clinton: "The person responsible for domestic economic policy in my administration will be Bill Clinton. I'm going to make those decisions..." Mr. Bush: "That's what worries me."

Most embarrassing campaign gaffe: Mr. Quayle, during a June visit to a spelling bee. When a young contestant correctly spells the word "potato" on the blackboard, Mr. Quayle coaxes him into adding an "E" at the end.

Most talked-about presidential candidate: Harry S. Truman. And yes, it was the 1992 campaign.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- Five handicapped Americans explored all over Thailand in a sailing boat across rivers, recording a distance of nearly 2,500 miles. They halted in almost 180 places.
- A bull's front legs are shorter than its back ones, enabling it to run faster going uphill than down.
- William Bolton, of Harewood, England, hiked 400 miles for exercise 10 times each year for the last 10 years of his life — until his death at the age of 80.
- In Madagascar lives a rodent resembling a squirrel that can, through tapping the tree trunks, recognise the cavities within where insects usually exist. It is on these insects that the rodent feeds.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Do you speak English/Spanish/French/Greek? Inta titkallam Ingleezi/Spani/Fransawi/Yunani?
- Could you please speak more slowly? Momken titkallam ala mahlak?
- Please tell me where the Roman Theatre is. Arjoo tikollu feen Al-Masrah Al Romani.
- It's just behind Al Assima Municipality. Howa Khal' Amanet il Assima bizzabt.
- Would you mind coming with me? Fee indak mani? tiji ma'aya?
- Can we take a taxi or go on foot? Momken makhod taxi walla nimshi?
- It's not far from here. Only 3 minutes walk. Moosh ba'ed min hana. Takat daq'iq masbi hass.
- Excuse me, I feel hungry now. Where's the nearest restaurant? Bidoon nu'akhaza, halle ana jaw'an. Fain akrab mat'am?
- Could you wait for me? I'll have a sandwich. Momken tistan'anni? Biddi akol sandwicha.
- I'm at your service. Welcome to our country. Ana fi khidmatak. Ahlan wasahlan beek fi baladna.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

England

- Complete the names of these foods:
 - pastry
 - dumpling
 - pudding
 - tart
 - bun.
- Name the coastal countries from Lincolnshire to Cornwall.
- What have these in common: North Hessary Tor, Holme Moss, Pontop Pike, Rowridge?

- Which is the odd one out. Reading; Canterbury; Aylesbury; Taunton; Lincoln?
- The Englishman who lives in London is a Londoner. What do you call the one who lives in Manchester, Liverpool and Oxford?
- Where are these airports: Hurn, Stansted and Gatwick?

JOKES AND CRACKS

A young mother thought it was time to stop her little boy from thumb-sucking, and she decided to use a psychological approach. "Now, tell me, Johnny, does your thumb taste good?" "No," admitted the boy. "Is it good to chew on?" The boy shook his head. "Then what is good about sucking your thumb?" "Well," the boy said after some thought, "it's non-fattening."

"Teacher likes me better than you." — "How do you know?" — "She puts more kisses (XXX) in my book than in yours!"

A Washington correspondent, travelling by train through a lush valley in California, sat beside a British writer on his first tour of the United States. The Englishman, after silently observing mile after mile of fertile, prosperous land, finally said "Damn George III!"

PUZZLES

(A) HALF-MINUTE TEASER

These letters when rearranged make the name of a bird and a fish.

(B) M.P. TO START IT

In each of the three lines of squares and letters below, place two letters before those given and two after them, so as to make a familiar word in each case.

1				R	L
2		G		I	B
3				U	R

See Solutions on page D

The little hero

By E. Yaghi

What makes a hero? The stuff that makes any hero is the essence of great courage whether in a battlefield of opposing armies or in the combat of life. Little Abed has been a hero for more than two years because he was exposed to three difficult crises. First, he encountered the trauma of his mother's bout with terminal cancer, second, he himself underwent a trying heart surgery and third, he had to learn to live with the loss of his mother.

When Abed's mother first became ill with cancer, he was a skinny, puny-looking child that clung to her skirts wherever she went. One day, she was mysteriously whisked off to the hospital and the small boy was left to wonder why her "visit" as she called it before telling him good-bye, was taking so long. His mother's stay lasted for many tortuous weeks and during this time, not only was he not allowed to see her, but he himself entered another hospital, in spite of his adamant protests, to undergo corrective heart surgery.

Even though the night before his operation, his oldest sister held his free hand for comfort and his father guarded his bed with paternal concern and relatives flocked in and out of his room in droves, Abed missed that one person who meant more to him than anyone else in all the world. As he stared transfixed at the clean white sheets, the smell of alcohol and medicine overpowered him and he became too confused and frightened to express himself or his frustrations.

"But where's my mother? Why can't she be here?" he asked his sister as he looked disgustingly up at the I.V. bottle which slowly dripped down into his taped arm.

"I'm afraid! Will this operation hurt? I want my mommy and I don't like the icky smell of hospitals!"

"I promise you that you shall see mama as soon as you're able, God willing. Relax now, I'm right beside you and I'm going to be right here when you go down to surgery and right here when you wake up. Don't be afraid, you must be brave!"

Her kind expression made him feel a little better but he didn't really understand why he was expected to always be brave and act like a big boy. After all, he was only 6. "Bravery" and "bigness" were for older people, not for little guys like him. Nevertheless he suffered through the agony of surgery and tried to be patient during those first few days when his pain was very intense in the hopes that if he were a "good boy" he soon would be able to go and see his mother. So he tried to lie quite still on his hospital bed under the great white gauze bandages that covered his chest from close to his collar bone to not far from where his belt buckle would be. Since small children are usually quite resilient, it wasn't long before he began to bounce all over his hospital room with burning impatience to see his mother. Had she missed him, he wondered. He knew he missed her terribly!

"Well," said the good doctor on one of his morning rounds as he peered through his spectacles, "I see you're feeling better and for the first time, you've got some red in your cheeks and I think I detect a sign of mischief gleaming in your big eyes. You'll soon be going home!"

The child tugged at the doctor's stethoscope and said in the most irritating voice he could find, "When will I be able to see my Mommy? When can I see her, huh?"

The surgeon smiled one of his rare smiles that he reserved for small boys with heart surgery, "I'll make arrangements with your mother's hospital so you can see her the same day you are discharged!"

Abed could hardly wait for that day when at last his father carried him to the hospital where his mother was recuperating. He was very excited. As he and his father approached the room where his mother was waiting, he ordered his father, "Put me down. I'm big now and I'm well. I want to run to Mommy!"

And he did. He ran to where he saw her sitting in a wheel-chair in the corner of the bright blue reception room, right into her outstretched arms, never noticing at first her own bandages or the tears that had wet her face. "Mommy, I missed you so much! Please come home with me," he said after he hugged her. "Let's not be away from each other ever again. Oh, I love you so much!"

He looked up into her eyes, searching for the love that always shone there but he noticed her tears and also a sign of uncertainty that puzzled him. He spent some happy hours with her and would leave only after she promised to come home soon. At last she did and Abed thought his troubles were over. She struggled through cooking and other household chores in an effort to regain the vigour she once had, but her health continued to deteriorate until a year later she quietly passed away out of Abed's life. The night she died, the small boy insisted on going to her grave. Wasn't he big now? Wasn't he a little man? His bright eyes blinked back the tears as he sought comfort in the attentions of his aunts, but when the time came for his mother's burial, he jumped out of the lap that comforted him and announced to the protests of the women around him, "I'm going with my Mama!"

He discovered that after his mother's funeral, it took a lot of courage to live without her. He missed her more than ever because he knew she was never coming back. About two months later, his father drew him close to him on the sofa and said: "Son, I know you miss your mother so I'm going to get you a new one!"

He looked at his father in disgust as if mothers could be purchased every day like a newspaper or bread and retorted, "I don't want a new mother. No one will ever take her place!"

However, his father insisted on getting married and now his stepmother hustled around the kitchen banging his mother's pots and pans in a territory that used to be hers. Not long ago, Abed sat in front of his television set and watched the Telethon on JTV to raise funds for Jordan's first cancer centre. He was very impressed by the amount of money and the famous personalities that took part in the Telethon. He remembered his mother and the caresses and kisses he missed so much. He sprang up and ran to where his father was sitting and pounded on his knee with his fist, "Daddy, are you going to give them any money?"

"Who?" his father asked, not paying attention. "Those guys on TV who are collecting money for cancer patients like mommy so kids like me won't have to be without their mothers. You must give so other children won't suffer!"

His father's brows knitted in a frown and he said that he couldn't afford to donate any money because of his wedding and a new baby in the family. "I have some money saved from when mama was alive," the boy said excitedly, "Call the TV station right now and tell them I'm donating JD40."

He refused to let his father rest until he called the station and promised to contribute his son's money. Triumphant, Abed sat back down on the red carpet hoping other children wouldn't have to live without their mothers. What makes a hero? A great deal of courage. Ask little Abed. He knows!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 29

- 8:30 Uncle Buck
- Thea wants to quit high school to work as a model. Uncle Buck tries to go out of his way to convince her to stay at school.
- 9:10 Civil Wars
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Movie Of The Week
- Full Moon In The Blue Water
- Starring: Gene Hackman

Friday, Oct. 30

- 8:30 Too Close For Comfort
- 9:10 Nanni And Mami
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Antagonists

Saturday, Oct. 31

- 8:30 America's Funniest Home Video
- 9:00 Perspective
- 9:30 Varieties
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Feature Film
- The Final Heist
- Starring: Jan-Michael Vincent
- A famous thief makes his final heist.
- 8:30 Silbs
- Honey I Shrunk My Head
- The couple consult a psychiatrist who convinces both to accept each other. They do and get along well.

Sunday, Nov. 1

- 8:30 Coach



John Hurt and Jane Fonda in Red Fox on Monday at 10:20

Wednesday, Nov. 4

- 8:30 Saved By The Bell
- As usual, Zack starts another bid to help his classmates solve their problems. Lisa helps him out.
- 9:10 Chudo
- Traveller's Tales
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 New Drama Series
- The Cowra Breakout
- A true story of events that took place in Cowra Prisoners' Camp for Japanese Soldiers during World War II. The events were not revealed for more than 30 years.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

- 8:30 Golden Girls
- Dorothy is seeing her ex-husband, Stan, who proposes to her, but her mother does not approve.
- 9:10 Maigret
- The Patience Of Maigret
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 When the Lion Roars

Johnnie 1.50

The Moon in the Mirror — a Chilean film with a dozen prizes

By Ica Wabbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For a week in Amman, where the Spanish Cultural Centre is screening his highly acclaimed film "La Luna En El Espejo" (The Moon In The Mirror), Silvio Calozzi Garcia is on his way to Trieste for the Latin American Film Festival.

In its seventh year, the Italian movie gala is the place where the Chilean producer/director's film got the first prize in 1990.

This year though, Mr. Garcia will not be there to present one of his productions but to pass judgment.

A Columbia College, Chicago, film and TV graduate, Mr. Garcia said his choice of The Moon in the Mirror, written by Jose Donoso, was more of a personal challenge than a commercially-motivated endeavour.

"In Chile the public is small. Film-making is not a lucrative business when you

do not do it for the public. And I did not publicise my movie. It was, in this case, a personal experience."

Not sure it was worth investing for the final "product," Mr. Garcia, who admits the film is a far cry from conventional cinema, took his pet project to an end. The result, a movie which boasts a dozen prizes from all over the world, has enjoyed instant success in Chile, and not only there.

It has been bought by Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, France and Australia.

"I still think it was a miracle," said the young producer who took five weeks to shoot the film after spending five weeks to work on the script with the writer, J. Donoso.

The structure of the film goes against the classical build-up of a plot. It does not progress, it goes in circles. The open end is giving way to personal interpretations.

The plot, with only three characters, is simple. A re-

tired, sick seaman, Don Arnaldo, lives with son Fatty. Confined to his bed, he controls all the movements of the house through the mirrors that hang from the walls of his bedroom. He dominates his childish son, in his early thirties, and keeps a keen eye on him.

FILM REVIEW

The son, immature and taking out his frustration on food, is obedient and meek, but he wants, and fears, his father. The conflict is triggered by an elderly widowed neighbour, Lucrecia. The same childish mentality brings Lucrecia and Fatty close together. They come to like each other and try to make their relationship progress while hiding from Don Arnaldo.

There is a psychological blackmail binding the three characters, with Fatty bating his father but never acknowledging how much he desires his death.

Enraptured by Lucrecia, Fatty dares to break away from the confinement of his house and one afternoon takes her for a walk to the harbour. The rebellious act provokes Don Arnaldo who plays his last card endeavouring to regain control of his son.

The three are "futureless characters who try to control each other," said Mr. Garcia. "1986, (when the film was shot) reflects a black period in our history. Chile was at a cultural low so the characters live like all of us (at the time): small, insignificant events. We were living in our own cells. So, without setting it as my aim, the outcome was that of such small characters, living a bleak life," added the producer who stresses though that the film was not meant to be a political one.

And the protagonists, "small, adorable characters," are full of defects but also full of desire to get out of the situation they live in.

"You even come to like the

crabby old man," said Mr. Garcia who added that the seaman's character, like actually that of the other two, is pretty ambiguous.

The circular structure of the 60-minute-long film is in tune with the world around the characters, "a world where you always expect something to happen, where nothing goes on and one becomes frustrated."

There is no action in the movie, nothing does actually happen, but tension mounts. Everything is subtly hinted and a delicate balance is kept in the rhythm of the shooting.

"I often needed to repeat whole scenes as one second in excess or one second less could spoil the harmony between the sound and movement that was so vital," the artist said.

The film, prized in Italy, Spain, France, Cuba and a few South American countries, was screened in the Spanish Cultural Centre, but the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation has expressed in-



Father, son and neighbour: The three protagonists of The Moon in the Mirror, Silvio Calozzi Garcia's highly-acclaimed film.

terest in showing it at its premises. The rich Latin American

culture could be a source of inspiration. And Mr. Garcia could provide a good starting

point. The producer/director's next stop, en route to Italy, is Cairo.

Sinead is taking hits these days, not making them

By Larry McShane

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joe Pesci and Madonna blasted her. The Bob Dylan crowd booed her. Angry protesters steam-rolled her records — which, by the way, are tumbling down the charts.

It's been a long three weeks for Sinead O'Connor and the hands that ripped up the Pope. The Irish singer has been taking hits instead of making them.

"It seems like such an overreaction," said Elaine Schock, O'Connor's publicist. "You have to think about what she really did: She tore up a picture of the Pope. Was it the anger on her face? What was it that caused all

this?" Mostly, it was Sinead herself.

It all started Oct. 3, when O'Connor capped an appearance on Saturday Night Live by tearing up a picture of Pope John Paul II before a national television audience. "Fight the real enemy," she announced before ripping the photo.

The repercussions were instant. Hundreds of phone calls quickly poured into NBC. Two weeks later, a generally mellow crowd at the Bob Dylan tribute drove her in tears from the stage with their jeers.

O'Connor, in a statement in London, reiterated her objections to the church, which she holds responsible for the child abuse she suf-

fered. The Vatican uses "marriage, divorce and in particular birth control and abortion to control us through our children and through fear," she said.

Such explanations have done little to appease those incensed by her action.

"I think it was just the irreverence of it. Why is she blaming the Pope for her mother abusing her, as a child? It's ridiculous," said Bill Fugazy of the National Ethnical Coalition of Organisations.

The organisation used a steamroller to crush more than 200 Sinead albums. The remains were to be shipped to Sinead. Mr. Fugazy isn't the only person ripping O'Connor. Oscar-winner

Pesci, appearing a week later on Saturday Night Live, produced a reassembled version of the Pope's picture during his monologue.

"She was very lucky it wasn't my show, because if it was my show, I would have given her such a smack," Pesci said to cheers.

Even Madonna — who just released a 128-page book of erotic fantasies — defended the Pope: "I think there's a better way to present her ideas rather than ripping up an image that means a lot to other people."

O'Connor's response to Madonna and Pesci: "There's no comment. And there won't be," said Ms. Schock, who is hopeful the furor will die down. It only rekindled at

the Dylan bash, Sinead's first public appearance since Saturday Night Live.

"I must say that Ms. O'Connor brings out the worst in many of us. ... She came onstage with her own agenda and 'an attitude,' columnist Liz Smith wrote about that fiasco.

A Rolling Stone cover story didn't help, either. O'Connor, in an interview, defended convicted rapist Mike Tyson and labelled his victim, Desiree Washington, "a disgrace to women." She also advocated marijuana use.

The controversy hasn't even helped record sales. Her album Am I Not Your Girl? debuted three weeks ago on the billboard charts at No. 27. It has since dropped to

No. 47.

Bad press isn't new for O'Connor, although her past flaps fell into the "just say no" category: She refused to appear with Andrew Dice Clay on Saturday Night Live, refused to attend the Grammys because they glorified commercialism, and refused to allow the Star-Spangled Banner to be played before a New Jersey concert.

The last act prompted Frank Sinatra to declare that Sinead needed a kick in the posterior. "For her sake, we'd better never meet," Sinatra said after the August 1990 incident.

They never have, although a face-to-face with Frank wouldn't surprise anyone at this point.

Henry VIII's queens reevaluated in timely book on royal wives

By Anne Senior

Reuter

LONDON — "Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived."

Generations of schoolchildren have used this simple rhyme to remember the fates of the six wives of Henry VIII, the 16th-century English king whose reign provided one of the most colourful chapters in the ongoing saga of British royal romance.

But in a recent book about the Tudor queens, royal biographer Lady Antonia Fraser says there is more to the ladies of King Henry's bedchamber than the way they left his company.

One of the consorts could boast a better royal pedigree than the king himself, another was a French-speaking firebrand who

dared to argue with Henry in public, another a cool operator at the royal court who acted as regent in her husband's absence.

"The six wives of Henry VIII" taps into an enduring fascination with the king who broke with the Vatican and founded the Church of England in order to divorce first wife Catherine of Aragon, only to tire of his second spouse and marry several more.

One reviewer called the book a "Tudor Dallas" but the weighty tome is selling well, its appeal enhanced by the topical debate about troubled royal marriages in Queen Elizabeth's family, the House of Windsor.

The cause of the religious split was Anne Boleyn, the mistress turned second wife, who was put to death, her crown later passing to Jane

Seymour, who died after childbirth. The German Anne of Cleves was cast aside as a marital mistake, luckily perhaps for her, as wife number five Katherine Howard was sent to the axeman's block for alleged adultery.

The sixth queen, Catherine Parr, nursed the king until his death and then married her fourth husband.

Fraser's premise is that many people know the basic story of Henry VIII's wives from their school days, but few have looked beyond the stereotypes of wronged wife, evil temptress, Madonna and nursemaid that are often used to describe them.

She portrays the Tudor queens like this:

Catherine of Aragon — daughter of Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand of Aragon, she was trained from birth to be a

royal ambassador and succeeded in every duty except providing a male heir. She was happily married to Henry for two decades before being ditched.

Anne Boleyn — captivated the king with her fiery nature. Clever, multi-lingual and reckless, she stood up to him but her reproductive abilities let her down — she had a daughter.

Jane Seymour — a quiet girl, a contrast to Anne. Henry's most beloved wife perhaps — she bore a son — but her appeal might have waned if she had lived beyond the starry-eyed stage.

Anne of Cleves — admittedly no beauty but a solid woman who kept her head and outlived the king and his other wives.

Katherine Howard — a victim of her own naivete and court intrigue, who failed to

recognise the dangers of flirting with other men when married to a king. Beheaded at 21.

Catherine Parr — a twice-widowed woman who managed to keep on the good side of the king despite his ill-health, acting as regent when he went to oversee a campaign against the French.

Critics have accused Fraser of trying to rewrite history for modern-day feminists, but she argues that it is important to rescue "rich and feisty" female characters from the mists of mostly male-recorded history.

Fraser, a respected royal biographer with many works to her credit, has also written a book about warrior women from Queen Boudicca (or Boadicea) who fought the Romans to Britain's "iron lady" prime minister, Mar-

garet Thatcher.

A reviewer in the Economist magazine said the Tudor book was a good read but not serious history. It proved that history books "end up revealing far more about the people and times they are written for than for the people and times they are written about."

The Independent On Sunday reviewer decided the only historical merit of the book lay in its sympathetic look at Anne of Cleves "simply by taking seriously the one wife whom historians have usually passed over."

But for publishers Weidenfeld Nicholson Find royal soap opera is big business and the book has been among the top-sellers in Britain since it was published in August, despite its £20 (\$35) price.



(Left) Engraving of Henry VIII in his last years by Cornelius Matsys. (Right) Catherine Parr (Henry VIII's 6th wife), attributed to William Scrots.

Tavernier's film on narcotics agents gets applause from policemen

PARIS (Agencies) — Bertrand Tavernier's bleak new movie about a Paris narcotics squad has raised the ire of France's interior minister but is winning applause from policemen.

Far from a slick, Hollywood-style thriller, L.627 is more like an in-depth documentary, shot in back alleys and derelict buildings. Don't expect to see the Eiffel Tower or Arc de Triomphe. Instead, there are drug busts on Subway platforms, HIV-positive prostitutes looking for business, rug addicts vomiting on sidewalks, illegal immigrants living in squalor.

Written by Tavernier and Michel Alexandre, a former narcotics agent, L.627 is a sober look at six agents operating in cramped, prefabricated offices, with a single motor scooter to get around. Their

typewriters are antique manual models, and the carbon paper they use for their reports comes from home.

Interior Minister Paul Quilès denounced the film, which recently opened, as a "caricature" giving a distorted image of the police force. But the National Investigators Union, representing more than 3,000 police officers, said the film "accurately showed their deplorable working conditions as well as the specific problems they face in the streets."

L. 627, named for the section of the French penal code relating to narcotics crimes, shows agents arresting innocent people and betraying their informers to inflate their statistics.

Some officers are alcoholics, some are stupid. Others, like Lulu and Marie, care about their work.

One of their main problems is Dodo, the blundering boss who'd rather play board games than hit the streets.

"Dealers or big-time wholesalers, it's all the same in the statistics book at the end of the year," he says.

The film shows the police as victims of an infernal bureaucratic machine.

In one scene, Lulu brings his van into the police garage — it has a gas leak — only to be told it can't be repaired because police vehicles can't be worked on without full tanks.

"It doesn't make sense to put gas in a leaky tank," he explains.

"Who cares about sense?" retorts the mechanic. "Rules are rules."

For Tavernier, the real problems of the narcotics force are even worse than those depicted in his slice-of-

life drama. "The bureaucracy is so bad, it's almost surrealistic," he told the newspaper Le Monde. "For example, a fax machine was delivered two years ago, but they never received the paper."

Mr. Quilès said he felt Tavernier made the film without conducting broad, unbiased research.

"I'm sorry he never tried to see me," Mr. Quilès said. "Rather than make unfair and false statements, he would have learned that all does not resemble his caricature, he would have learned about my concerns and my projects and the steps I have taken."

Tavernier explained in an interview in the daily Liberation that the film cannot possibly be considered a documentary because of

officers — like all civil servants in France — must respect a written code of silence.

"I know that people have the impression the film is a documentary, but I can point out at least 20 scenes which are not," he said. "A documentary involves filming techniques which I did not use."

However, he went on to quote new wave director Francois Truffaut, who once said that "three-quarters of successful films contain a bit of documentary."

Tavernier became interested in drugs when he learned his son, Nils, was an addict.

"Above all, it's thanks to Nils that I met Michel Alexandre who was the inspiration for the main character," he said.

known, the rumpled-looking Didier Bezace, who plays Lulu (slang for Lucien), a detective obsessively tracking down petty dealers who make drug addiction one of Paris' growing headaches.

Lulu shoots no one, but he has no qualms about beating handcuffed suspects arrested in the down-and-out Paris slums where he operates.

When pouncing on curbside drug dealers, Lulu and his colleagues half-strangle them or kick them in the groin until they vomit drugs concealed in their mouths.

Lulu's girlfriend, whom he sensibly avoids bedding, is a heroine-addicted, HIV-positive prostitute, and police informer.

Tavernier is a quintessentially French filmmaker.

His film caused a furor by indicting a Socialist government shown as neither caring about nor understanding drugs and denying police the means to do their job.

Even touchier in a country where racism and illegal immigration are explosive political issues, virtually all the Arab or black African immigrants.

Le Nouvel Observateur, the weekly bible of the left-thinking intelligentsia, asked in a headline: "Is L.627 racist?"

Tavernier, who has made such acclaimed films as The Clockmaker, Deathwatch and Around Midnight brushed off Mr. Quilès' accusations against him.

He accused Mr. Quilès of

Quilès denied the charge. "We could have given ourselves a good left-wing conscience if we had depicted the dealers as whites," said Mr. Alexandre.

"But the fact is 50 per cent of them are black, 30 per cent Arab and only 20 per cent European. Of course black and Arab dealers are a tiny minority in their communities but they discredit everyone else."

The film is far from portraying detectives as heroes. Lulu's colleagues include alcoholics, brutes and imbeciles. Lulu himself is on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Asked by Le Quotidien De Paris whether he liked the police, Tavernier said:

Using life's experiences as an improved form of treatment

By Boike Jacobs

CHRISTIAN can come and see us at all times," says Mrs. Sellmann, giving the young fair-haired farmer's son at her side an encouraging smile. And her husband adds that he did not need to have a special reason to come. "Sometimes it helps just to sit down together and laugh and talk." On Sunday afternoon, for example, when coffee and cake are being served and the grown-up children come for a visit. "Christian feels a lot better when he's together with a crowd of people," Mrs. Sellmann laughs, and the young man agrees with a blush.

Of course, the Sellmanns not only help with coffee and cake, but also help Christian fill in official forms and cheer him up when worries and fears get the better of him. The host of newspaper reporters invited along to the Saint Joseph's Hospital in Bad Driburg on this particular morning listen with interest to what the likeable elderly couple has to say.

Suddenly, a young journalist turns to Mrs. Sellmann. He did have another question, he says. "Christian looks quite normal. I mean, I can't see what's wrong with him. How does his disorder make itself noticeable?" Christian sits and listens, with a hushed face, staring hel-

lessly into space.

This is no exceptional case, but the kind of bitter and everyday situation with which people like the Sellmanns are confronted. Christian has been psychologically ill for some years and is thus particularly stigmatised. Most people with similar problems are sent to closed institutions, located somewhere out in the countryside, carefully segregated from all healthy people.

They are commonly called "loony hins" or "nut houses," and in rural areas, like the district of Höxter, some people still believe that the mentally ill are "possessed by the devil." In Bad Driburg, the Saint Joseph's Hospital is located on a hill above the picturesque health resort.

Dr. Hanns Philippzen set up a psychiatric ward on the upper floor twenty years ago. It took years for the population of Bad Driburg to grow accustomed to the fact. The dedicated senior consultant, however, declares that there were no reasonable arguments against clinically caring for the mentally ill in the municipal hospitals. "The time has come for new forms of care," he says.

One of these new forms is the initiative "neighbours," to which, apart from the Sellmanns, nine other couples and 15 reference persons be-

long, all of whom work in an honorary capacity. They invite the sick people to their homes, sometimes give them accommodation, and try to discuss and solve all the problems which arise.

Once a month, they all meet Dr. Philippzen, talk about their experiences and obtain advice if they are unsure about something. A task which requires tremendous warm-heartedness and endurance, a task which Mrs. Sellmann says she didn't initially feel she could manage.

Today, she couldn't imagine doing anything else, she adds, heaving with happiness as if she and her family, not Christian, had been given a present. The urge to take the mentally ill out of their ghettos is even forwarded by state institutions, but for Dr. Philippzen the main question is how close we let these people get to us.

"Do we want them really close or just a bit closer, are we just giving them the long overdue proper care or are we honestly integrating them into our communities?" Part of this integration, for example, is the joint organisation of leisure-time activities.

Apart from the guest families, a "Circle of the Handicapped and their Friends" has also existed in the district of Höxter for years, which tries to help 100 mentally ill

persons, for example, by organising parties with them. Last year, for example, they made it possible for 18 of them to be admitted to sports clubs and choral societies.

The underlying realisation, says Dr. Philippzen, is "that these people need something other than clinical or outpatient psychiatric help, and that they also want different environments to live in than a cheerless hospital." For example, a job environment like anyone else.

One of his key experiences was the statement by a patient who received outpatient treatment at Saint Joseph's Hospital without any improvement in his general state of health. In a discussion he explained one day: "Doctor, you always ask me about the voices. I can handle them all right, but when I stand at the window in the morning and see my schoolfriends go to work I have to cry."

Only a short while later, this man was one of the members of a pioneer group which set up a small industrial business of a special kind in Bad Driburg in 1982. Following an initiative by Dr. Philippzen, people from the town of Driburg and the district of Höxter, from the Protestant and Catholic churches, joined forces with the firm Nixdorf and set up the

INTEG company, a so-called integration plant for the physically and mentally ill and persons with psychological disorders. The special thing about the plant is that they can work here together with healthy colleagues and that they can also earn a fair wage — on average roughly DM1,200 a month. "This is the best form of psychiatric experience with vocational rehabilitation. Earning money is fun, not only for the psychiatrists but also for the handicapped!" says Dr. Philippzen with his own style of humour. There are no social security recipients in the INTEG.

Dr. Philippzen has made the experience that psychiatrists are not too clever when it comes to job planning and work routines. "The psychiatrist who tries to influence vocational integration usually goes a stage too low for fear of demanding too much of his former patients."

During the first six months after the INTEG was set up doctors then decided not to turn up there and only come today for company parties or to discuss organisational problems. The transition from in-patient treatment to working life is fluid in Bad Driburg; the patients are already sent to the INTEG for occupational therapy and for practical tests during their treatment in the psychiatric

ward of Saint Joseph's Hospital and most of them keep these jobs.

INTEG is not a subsidised enterprise but a professionally organised plant which, according to the commercial and technical manager, also makes a profit. Glasswork is carried out, ranging from simple glass packaging, assembly and adhesion work to surface finishing and gold painting.

Work from the fields of electronics and electrical engineering, carried out for Nixdorf, is particularly important. The technical director proudly presents the department in which software is made. INTEG currently has 360 employees, 197 of whom are handicapped persons for whom it is normally hard to find a job; 92 of these have psychological problems.

People who take a walk around the firm have trouble distinguishing between those who are handicapped and those who are not. All work with equal concentration, and all of them seem to enjoy their work. The question is, says Dr. Philippzen, who had learned more through the INTEG project, the patients or their doctors. The psychiatrists in Bad Driburg had at least discovered that friendships between handicapped and non-handicapped workers, the incentive of earning an income,

and the pleasure derived from making something themselves had led to personality changes of former patients.

"Especially the insufficient drive often observed among people with psychological problems is generally nothing but the expression of deep-rooted resignation." As soon as they can lead a normal life with their own accommodation, circle of friends and, above all, work, they can again develop their own initiative and feel a new zest for life.

Of course, such optimistic experiences do not mean that professional care for people with psychological disorders is completely superfluous. But Dr. Philippzen only wants this care to be administered in the hospitals in extreme emergency cases.

This is why he organised the so-called advisory services for the district of Höxter, securing financial support from local politicians, the district administration and, above all, the Caritas charity organisation. In October 1983, a Caritas advice centre was opened in the small health resort of Brakel. Headed by Dr. Schaafhausen, the centre provides educational advice, addiction and marriage counselling, and a social psychiatry service.

Last year, 600 people re-

ceived advice from the centre. An important aspect is that the social workers visit their clients regularly in this part of Westphalia and, together with neighbours and people working in an honorary capacity, help them establish a local social network to enable the person with psychological problems to organise their lives themselves.

The only serious problems result from the question which could not be clarified over the past twenty years: who is in fact responsible for the financing of this exemplary model. Although the district of Höxter and the regional Westphalia-Lippe insurance office finances part of the costs, the Landschaftsverband Westphalia-Lippe, the executing agency of the big special psychiatric hospitals, refuses to do this very day to support the unconventional work in Bad Driburg and Brakel.

For farmer's son Christian the question of who will finance his treatment in the future is the biggest worry. Mr. Sellmann, however, is full of the fighting spirit. "They shouldn't kick up such a fuss," he says with eyes flashing. "We'll get that financed for the boy if we have to go from pillar to post!" — Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt.

Abortion referendum is a nightmare scenario for Irish doctors

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — Irish doctors fear they could be bombarded with law suits over a controversial referendum that seeks to lift Ireland's total ban on abortion.

Bracing for attack from both sides on an issue that stirs deep passions in this conservative and predominantly Roman Catholic coun-

try, they predict their legal insurance bills will soar — perhaps by 400 per cent.

Prime Minister Albert Reynolds has failed to win political consensus on the wording of the referendum to be put before Ireland's 2.5 million voters on Dec. 3, and his cabinet is split on the issue.

So Ireland could face six weeks of bitter and divisive debate. Doctors say they are

caught in the middle, obliged to apply laws that some of them find utterly confusing.

The constitution was last amended in 1983 to protect the rights of the unborn child. That effectively sealed up Ireland's ban on abortion, and up to 5,000 Irish girls flee in secret to Britain every year to have the operation.

But in March, Ireland was internationally condemned when a Dublin court banned

a frightened and suicidal 14-year-old rape victim from flying to Britain for an abortion.

The Supreme Court overruled the decision, arguing that the girl's life was threatened and that Ireland should allow abortion in certain limited circumstances.

Mr. Reynolds then proposed a three-part referendum. Virtually no one disputed

the first two parts — on the right to travel abroad for an abortion and access at home to information about abortion facilities.

The problem was clause three. It reads:

"It shall be unlawful to terminate the life of an unborn unless such termination is necessary to save the life, as distinct from the health, of the mother where there is an illness or disorder of the mother giving rise to a real and substantive risk to her life, not being a risk of self-destruction."

That rules out the case of the teenage rape victim which sparked the latest row. The risk to her life had been perceived as suicide.

Faced with the conflicting

anti-abortion and pro-choice lobbies, Cormac McNamara, president of the Irish Medical Organisation, predicts trouble.

"Some practitioners might feel a procedure (abortion) is necessary and one of these groups may then seek to either stop it or seek legal redress," he said.

"On the other side, a medical practitioner might decline to take a procedure and might be sued for it."

Doctors sounded out in a survey by the Sunday Independent newspaper showed how they mirror the divergences in society.

Dr. Mary Henry said: "There will be worry about the dividing line between life and health. If it is a question

where it is life-threatening, it may make it very difficult for the medical profession."

Dr. Mary Marnaghan confessed: "I think everybody is absolutely weary of foetuses. Everybody has forgotten the whole thrust of why this happened. Nobody is thinking about the X (teenager) case any more."

Dr. James Clinch echoed the fears of many who think abortion in limited circumstances could lead to freely available abortion.

"In the United States you now have terminations because women discover the sex of the baby and they want one of the opposite sex. That is abortion on demand," he said.

"If you look at termination in England, the vast majority are done on single girls who get pregnant for the first time. It is not a medical problem, it is a social problem."

The dilemma was perhaps captured by a woman who went on Irish State Radio to tell how her mother died in giving birth to her 45 years ago. She had a weak heart.

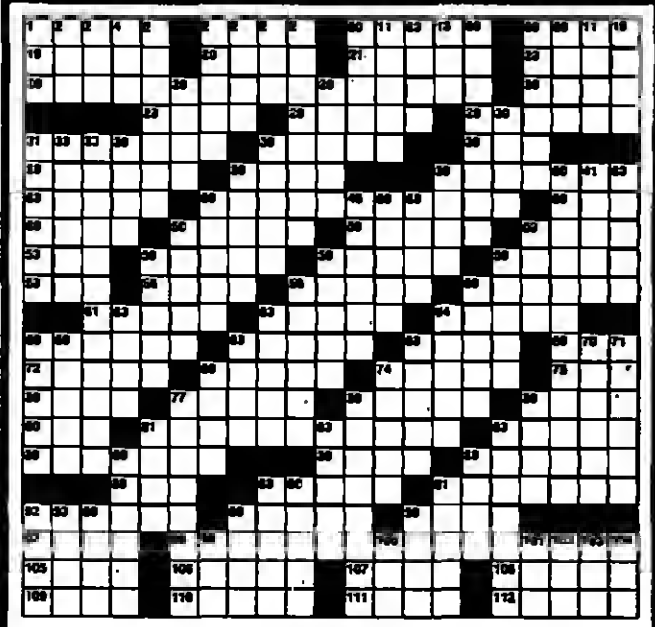
"No woman should be put in a position where she has no choice. The burden that is placed on a child who survives is too great," the woman said. "I would not wish to be the result of someone having to lose their life in order that I would gain mine."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SPRIT OF '76
By Louis Sabia

ACROSS
1 Like some memories
2 Sea of Mocha
3 Picchu
4 Military sash
5 Gr. goddess
6 Golden willow
7 Warm
8 Ancient Aegean region
9 Island sea
10 Declaration signer
11 Camp
12 "It's a deal"
13 Adventure story
14 Violent dance
15 "Enterprise" commander of 1883
16 Hengst's brother
17 Starmann

DOWN
1 Beau Brummell
2 Roadside
3 500
4 Snuggler's catch
5 Anekes soul
6 Cap or candle
7 Nefarious
8 Quin a motor
9 Tapestry
10 Road racing
11 — Mesa, Calif.
12 Bekor, pret.
13 — Brav
14 Sports ruse
15 Castro's town
16 Oignon
17 Prostate
18 Protected, naturally
19 Decant



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. I could tell you of the very wonderful use of an airplane I met, but what I believe is?
2. Jittery lady jockey played ice hockey to cool off after a pretty hard ride.
3. Big "ants" button on TV remote control provided precise in lip reading.
4. Our world would be better if people practiced peace for all.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LARDIFBUL BLYZ HU WIZFELUP UITE
SLAC SILP YIU ACPU DHAITL IF
OIAIWEH. —By Rita Salgado

2. JAOLBOSTJABS LDDF JSCBECYCYTB
JAOLIO OM PYRTBDO-TL RDO MOS ACI
YHRIJTJHS. —By Earl Ireland

3. OQTUPE PGOM PGNE PRNOME MREH
PMRTO FG FUN GAME SLOWLY SGOO GA
PGNMNQN PROWLTY. —By Ed Hoddison

4. URO BLZYX KCB CROKEDAOO FBZY BJ
JGHEFY URDJGYGO ZR RDC BEDEL
KGBAOGYT "E OROZ OR KROKY." —By Eugene T. Malocha

Diagramless 10 x 10, By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Form
2 Tank for hot water
3 Shine
4 Bullion
5 Adam's rib
6 Spotted youngster
7 Off ice
8 Highlander
9 Told tall tales
10 Occupancy contract

DOWN
12 — Island, NY
13 File again
14 Lower as a token of submission
15 Slave of yore
16 Legal paper
17 With
18 Brownish birds
19 Speed contest
20 Unwritten poetry
22 Certain lie
23 Tie

31 Founded abbr.
32 Athletic feat of a kind
34 Sane
37 Slack
38 Paster color
40 Race distance
41 Knuckleheads
42 Young tough
43 Gave up
46 Form an opinion
47 Put to sleep

48 Beloved
49 Most attractive girl
50 Low word
51 Section
52 Underestimate
53 Decimates
54 Mass Gardner
55 Nobleman
56 Tumbled
57 Tempted
58 Attempt

Yo-yo dieting linked to higher risk of early death

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Yo-yo dieting is being linked to early death in another study, and researchers say people who want to lose weight should set goals, proceed slowly and make sure lost weight stays lost.

"I don't want to be telling people if they're overweight, don't lose weight," said Dr. Min Lee, lead author of the study, published in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

People should choose a reasonable weight for their height as a goal and try to maintain it, Ms. Lee said from Boston. She is a research associate at Harvard University School of Public Health.

The study tracked 11,703 male Harvard University alumni who ranged in age from their late 40s to their late 60s between the years 1962 and 1977.

Of them, 1,441 men died during the period. 345 from heart disease and 459 from cancer, the researchers said.

People who lost or gained more than 11 pounds (five kilograms) were at higher risk of death than people who stayed within two pounds of the same weight, Ms. Lee said.

Men who gained more than 11 pounds (five kilograms) were 36 per cent more likely to die of any cause than men whose weights were stable.

Men who lost more than 11 pounds (five kilograms) had a 57 per cent elevated risk of dying, the study found.

Ms. Lee said the results surprised her and her co-author, Dr. Ralph S. Paffenbarger Jr. of Stanford University School of Medicine.

"I had fully expected to see that people who had lost weight would be at an advantage, and people who gained weight would be at a disadvantage," she said.

Differences in heart disease deaths were starker. Men who gained more than 11 pounds (five kilograms) increased it by 75 per cent.

Smaller weight losses and gains increased risks by lesser amounts. Cancer death rates were unaffected by weight changes, said the researchers, who controlled findings to account for differences in traits like cigarette smoking and levels of activity.

All of the men were healthy and — as a group — were less overweight than average American men, Ms. Lee said. All subjects were men because the data base dated to when Harvard admitted only men.

The study didn't explore whether weight changes were intentional or unintentional, nor did it gather information on weight fluctuations, Ms. Lee said.

But information from survivors suggests many who gained or lost the most net

weight actually had experienced large weight swings — the yo-yo effect — that has been implicated as potentially risky to health in previous studies.

One of those, a 32-year follow up of 5,127 men and women in the long-running Framingham, Mass. heart study, found a 70 per cent higher chance of dying of heart disease among those whose weights fluctuated significantly than among those

whose weights remained stable.

Kelly D. Brownell, a Yale University psychologist who headed the study on the Framingham group, called the new research very important.

"I think it helps put dieting in the proper perspective," he said. "It's something that should be undertaken seriously and only when there is just cause. Many of the people who are on diets don't need to be."

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) a- Cornish
b- Norfolk
c- Yorkshire
d- Bakewell
e- Bath, or Chelsea
- 2) Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall.
- 3) They are all sites of B.B.C. (British Broadcasting Corporation) television transmitting stations.
- 4) Canterbury. All the others are county towns.
- 5) Respectively: Mancunian, Liverpoolian (scouser), and Oxonian.
- 6) Hurn: Bournemouth; Stansted: near Dunmow, Essex; Gatwick: near Crawley, Cornwall.

PUZZLES

- A. Tomtit — Sprat
B. (1) De — ri — de
(2) Le — gib — le
(3) Ch — ur — ch

Tension eases in S Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

By police count, 13 people have been killed and 35 wounded in Israel and Lebanon in the violence that threatened to undermine the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks under way in Washington.

Iran and Hizbollah have vowed to wreck the talks.

Tehran Radio lauded Hizbollah's "blows against the Zionist occupiers," saying:

"Even though the U.S. and Israel deny it, the defeat of the Zionist forces in the so-called security zone... is not without effect on the Arab-Israeli conspiracy talks in Washington."

But Middle East delegates in the U.S. capital said they planned to go ahead with the talks and the U.S. administration urged "maximum restraint" on all sides.

U.S. State Department spokesman Joseph C. Snyder said the participants in the peace talks have "reaffirmed their determination not to allow violence to disrupt the very real progress" of the talks.

This week's violence is the heaviest since a three-week confrontation between Israel and Hizbollah on May that left 33 people killed and 87 wounded.

That confrontation was triggered by a hit-and-run guerrilla

foray into the "security zone" in which one fighter of the Israeli allied South Lebanon Army was killed and four others were captured May 19.

Wednesday, calm came after Hizbollah guerrillas held their fire.

"Everything is very quiet, there is no unusual activity," U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said.

Hundreds of frightened Lebanese civilians, too poor or old to flee, waited in a string of shell-blasted frontline villages to see if the big guns would stay silent.

They said it was useless to clear rubble and repair their homes until they were sure of a durable peace. More than 1,000 people fled villages within range of Israel's guns for safer parts of Lebanon.

"All you could hear when the shelling started was people screaming," said Labauer

Mohammad Shani, 21. "Then the whole house shook when the Israeli planes flew over. All the windows were smashed."

Political analysts said if peace held it would show how the Arab-Israeli talks could limit conflicts by putting both sides under pressure to stop fit-for-tat attacks going out of control.

Israeli army officers said their forces stopped short of another tank and artillery bombardment of Lebanon to avenge the killing of a 14-year-old immigrant boy by a rocket in the northern town of Kiryat Shmona Tuesday.

Hizbollah says guerrillas only fire rockets at Israel and the "security zone" to stop the south being shelled.

Beirut's independent Al Nahar newspaper said Damascus called a meeting Tuesday of a committee including representatives of Syria, Iran, Hizbollah and the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement.

It said the committee discussed the need to halt rocket attacks on Israel and the 15 kilometre-deep "security zone."

Israeli-Palestinian track in slump

(Continued from page 1)

meeting.

Lebanon appealed to Israel, meanwhile, to scale down its military response and pledged not to walk out of talks.

The chief Lebanese negotiator, Sahail Chammas, expressed understanding for Israel's "sensitivity" to the deaths in the buffer zone inside southern Lebanon, but he criticised Israel's response as disproportionate.

"Such overreaction does not help the peace process," he said.

A State Department spokesman, Joseph C. Snyder, stepped into the rift to accuse Hizbollah of trying to sabotage the peace talks, in their seventh round. He said Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians had "reaffirmed their determination not to allow violence to disrupt the very real progress being made in the Arab-Israeli peace talks."

The U.S. spokesman urged "maximum restraint" on all sides. The statement prepared for Mr. Snyder did not blame either side for the outbreak of violence.

Reuters adds from Damascus: Tens of thousands of Palestinians marched through Yarmouk Refugee camp near Damascus Wednesday demanding an immediate withdrawal of the Palestinian negotiators from the peace talks.

Heads of a 10-member Palestinian alliance which organised the protests led the demonstrators who chanted slogans condemning the Washington peace talks and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), told Reuters Mr. Arafat and the PLO leadership were "deceiving Palestinians."

Sahnoun

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Ghali was under pressure to keep Dr. Sahnoun. The secretary-general, asked Tuesday if he had accepted Mr. Sahnoun's resignation, told reporters that "nothing has been decided."

Security Council diplomats said the five permanent council members had urged retention of Mr. Sahnoun, who is Dr. Ghali's personal envoy in Somalia.

The sources said that while the United States, Britain and France emphasised they were not questioning Dr. Ghali's judgement, they strongly hoped Mr. Sahnoun would continue in his position, which they called vital to the relief operation. They were joined by China and Russia, the diplomats said.

"I personally hope he (Dr. Sahnoun) reconsiders it," U.S. Ambassador Edward Perkins said. "I'd like to see him stay. At the same time, this is between him and the secretary-general."

Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee, the ambassador of France, said the council would not become involved, but he has said that Mr. Sahnoun has been extremely successful in trying to win safe passage for relief shipments.

A new envoy, no matter how skilled, could not swiftly forge the same working relationships, diplomats said.

In Mogadishu, U.N. officials said in a statement Tuesday that Mr. Sahnoun offered to resign because of the obstacles Somali warlords placed in the way of world efforts to feed the country's hungry people.

But U.N. sources in Somalia, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the resignation had more to do with Mr. Sahnoun's problems with New York.

Environment

(Continued from page 1)

States next year on fighting oil spills.

The World Bank and the U.N. were also asked to report back to the next session on an Israeli proposal to set up a Middle East desert reclamation centre, diplomats said.

The Hague working group is one of five on regional issues set up under the Middle East peace process. Others deal with arms control, economic development, water and refugees.

Economic development talks are due to take place in France on Thursday and Friday.

All five groups work on a parallel track to the main bilateral talks which recovered for a seventh round in Washington last week.

This week's discussion of the environment was designed to complement the bilaterals.

But Palestinians, arguing the Israeli occupation is the single biggest environment problem in the area because of the uprooting of trees and water pollution, say it is impossible to separate it from the main political negotiations.

"The major point remains — regional cooperation is possible in the field of the environment unless tangible progress in the bilaterals is achieved," said R. Ishaq.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting all five working groups, saying they see no point to them until there is progress in the main peace talks.

Iraqi

(Continued from page 1)

defections by Iraqi troops and a rebellion in southern cities.

In Turkey Wednesday, the foreign ministry said the government in Ankara had organised a summit for Nov. 14-15 of countries in the area to discuss the Iraqi Kurds' efforts to gain more independence.

Spokeswoman Filiz Dincmen said Iran and Syria would participate, and that Saudi Arabia had been invited but has not yet responded.

Turkey is fighting its own Kurdish rebellion, and is unhappy with Iraqi Kurdish political activities. Iran and Syria have their own restive Kurdish minorities.

"The meeting was organised in view of a possibility that the developments in northern Iraq might threaten the peace and stability in the region," Mr. Dincmen said.

Three Israeli Mks protest German visit

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three right-wing members of Knesset (Mks) walked out of the Israeli parliament Wednesday to protest a visit by the president of the German parliament. Limor Livnat and Dov Shilansky of the opposition Likud party and Esther Salmovitz of the hardline Tsomet left the floor when the German guest, Berndt Seite, walked in, said parliament spokesman Yair Amikam. Mr. Seite is also governor of the German state of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania, which recently has been the site of neo-Nazi attacks against refugees. Mrs. Salmovitz was quoted by Israel Radio as saying that her departure was to protest the lack of serious German government response to growing anti-Semitism.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.5770	1.5805
Deutsche Mark	1.5290	1.5270
Swiss Franc	1.3595	1.3575
French Franc	5.1860	5.1848**
Japanese Yen	122.20	122.05
European Currency Unit	1.2856	1.2855**

USD Per STD
European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 28/10/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.56	3.56	3.87
Sterling Pound	8.43	7.37	6.81	6.50
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.68	8.25	7.68
Swiss Franc	5.93	6.12	5.93	5.75
French Franc	9.68	9.75	9.18	8.81
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.75	3.68	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.00	9.50	8.93

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Date: 28/10/92

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	338.20	6.60	Silver	3.76	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 28/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.683	0.685
Sterling Pound	1.0795	1.0849
Deutsche Mark	0.4475	0.4497
Swiss Franc	0.5035	0.5058
French Franc	0.1318	0.1325
Japanese Yen	0.5595	0.5621
Dutch Guilder	0.3975	0.3995
Swedish Krona	0.1187	0.1193
Italian Lira	0.0516	0.0519
Belgian Franc	0.02162	0.02173

Other Currencies

Date: 28/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	0.0320	0.0375
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1828
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7730
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1865
Greek Drachma	0.3450	0.3550
Cypriot Pound	1.4855	1.5100

Index

Date: 28/10/92

Index	28/10/92	27/10/92
All-Share	155.06	155.10
Banking Sector	116.71	116.88
Insurance Sector	169.36	169.43
Industry Sector	204.25	204.11
Services Sector	222.07	221.84

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5870/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2360/65	Canadian dollar
	1.5330/40	Deutsche marks
	1.7260/90	Dutch guilders
	1.3680/90	Swiss francs
	31.59/63	Belgian francs
	5.2050/100	French francs
	1321/1328	Italian lire
	122.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.7500/600	Swedish crowns
	6.2230/330	Norwegian crowns
	5.8650/750	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$337.65/338.15	

Iran issues new 1,000-riyal banknotes

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's central bank has issued new 1,000-riyal banknotes, 10 and 50-riyal coins, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday.

The notes bear the picture of the late Islamic revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said recently Iran would unify its three-rate foreign exchange system but dismissed concern the reform would lead to sharp price rises.

President Rafsanjani, in remarks reported by IRNA, said the government would continue to subsidize basic commodities and take other measures to cushion the impact of the move, which amounts to a sharp devaluation of the rial.

"An important thing that we are about to do is to set a single parity rate for foreign exchanges, and contrary to views expressed by some sections of the press that such a move would lead to inflation and a hike in prices, there should be no cause for concern," he told a gathering of deputy governors-general.

"As before, all basic goods needed by people would be provided and we will supply government organizations with hard currencies according to a rate to be set in future," he pointed out.

IRNA was also predicted the government's hard currency revenue would rise, expenditure would drop and the budget deficit would be eliminated in the next Iranian year starting March 21, IRNA said.

Unification of exchange rates is a main goal of Iran's current five-year plan-President Rafsanjani's blueprint to turn around Iran's war-battered and centralized economy into a more vibrant, market-oriented system.

The plan runs to March 20, 1994.

Officials and economists say the existing foreign exchange system causes corruption, undercuts domestic industry, distorts pricing mechanisms and discourages foreign investment.

Several ministers said this month that the government would abolish the three-rate system — with the dollar set at 64.5, 600 and 1,437 riyals in the latest quote — from March 21.

Dollars at the 64.5 rial rate are available only for basic imports like wheat and fuel and essential industries. Less important industries and services buy dollars at 600 riyals. The 1,437-rial rate applies to the rest of the economy.

Speculation about the rial's parity after unification ranges from 1,000 to 1,400 per dollar, meaning that some priority imports would cost 15 to 22 times more unless the government pays substantial extra subsidies.

Latin American governments urged to remember the poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Latin American governments rebounding from the economic stagnation of the 1980s must ensure that the poor benefit from their nations' growth if the recovery is to endure, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) says.

Continued economic progress in Latin America and Caribbean will depend more on successful reforms within the individual countries than how the world economy is doing, the Washington-based bank said in its annual report.

The gains may not stick "nor will political stability be achieved or maintained if explicit and urgent attention is not directed to the region's immense and long neglected problems of poverty," the report said.

The report advised governments to continue modernizing and diversifying their economies, while trying to generate popular support for reform "by spreading the benefits of renewed growth more equally over all groups of the population."

Economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean has been marked by rising rates of production growth, domestic demand and capital flowing in from abroad, according to the 330-page 1991 edition of the survey.

Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole registered a 3.2 rise in gross domestic product, led by an average rate of 5.6 for the Andean countries and 3.6 per cent for Mexico and Central America.

Individual countries with the most impressive growth percentages in 1991 were: Panama, 9.3; Venezuela, 9.2 and Guyana, 6.7. Argentina and Chile both saw six per cent growth.

The Caribbean lagged behind with a 0.2 per cent economic decline in 1991 but that still compared favourably with 1990. The IADB said the Caribbean suffered most from global recession, lower demand for merchandise exports and lagging tourism aggravated by the Gulf war and the collapse of Pan American Airlines.

Recovery in 1991 was fueled largely by the growth of demand within the individual countries and private investment, the report said. Earlier growth generally was tied to exports.

Recovery was strongest in construction, manufacturing and nontraditional agricultural products.

Brazil, Mexico and Argentina accounted for more than 80 per cent of the region's foreign earnings from manufactured goods, which contributed one third of all export profits, compared to only 10 per cent in 1971. Exports included a growing variety of high technology products.

The net amount of capital flowing in to Latin American countries from abroad more than doubled from 1990 to 1991, reaching \$36 billion, the bank said. Much of that money was the return of so-called "flight capital" money that wary domestic investors had sent to other countries during shaky economic times, the bank said.

Of money coming into the countries, \$11 billion was foreign direct investment, almost entirely to the private sector. Most went to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, "whose economies were perceived as having advanced furthest in the structural reform process," the report said.

Gas to displace oil as Malaysia's top earner

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia expects more revenue from gas exports than from petroleum by 1995 but it will continue oil exploration at home and abroad, said Syed Hamid Albar, minister in the prime minister's department.

"Revenue from liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports is forecast to rise to 7.3 billion ringgit (\$2.9 billion) in 1995 against 6.9 billion (\$2.8 billion) for oil," he told Reuters.

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OPEC starts to worry Oil prices slide

LONDON (R) — World oil prices are in retreat, down by more than a dollar a barrel in less than a week on evidence of excess crude supply ahead of the northern winter.

The precipitate decline on Wednesday led a worried Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to fire first warning shots across the market's bows.

"We appeal to all countries to restrain their production to make the most of good demand in the winter," Indonesian Minister Gunanjar Kartasasmita told Reuters in Jakarta.

Other OPEC sources said the slide in prices might persuade the grouping's 13 fractious members to bury political differences and seek an output accord at scheduled ministerial talks in Vienna starting on Nov. 25.

London December futures for the benchmark crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, sank as low as \$19.65 per barrel on Wednesday. This extended a retreat from almost \$21 a week ago and was the weakest price to have been registered since early August.

Several analysts profess surprise at the timing and severity of the decline. They blame speculators, although oil prices also peaked in October last year and declined until April.

"The sell-off is technical," said a senior Arab oil company executive. "Fundamentals are better than last year."

He said refiners' profit margins were good, noting that refined product prices have remained firmer than those for crude oil. And, unlike last year, Saudi Arabia also did not have big volume of oil to unload from floating storage facilities.

But initial soundings among industry sources suggest that estimates of OPEC October output will turn out at between 25 and 25.25 million barrels per day (b/d).

Western industry executives say this level, with some extra expected from Kuwait and perhaps Iran by year's end, implies a balanced market with no call for a draw on oil company stocks.

Demand is sluggish in a weak global economy, also signalling that the market ought to go lower — at least on a longer view of fundamentals.

The drop, however, might be premature. A really cold northern winter could stoke demand. Political uncertainty in Russia also means that doubt will continue to cloud forecasts of the supply — at present described as "patchy" by most traders — of Russian oil.

A third uncertainty is the Nov. 25 OPEC meeting.

Indonesia's plea for output restraint on Wednesday made scant impression on cynical futures traders. They recalled the force of OPEC's last session which set a theoretical output limit based on supply figures that few ministers believed.

Western diplomats add political tension between key OPEC players Saudi Arabia and Iran has risen since then. Iran has strengthened its hold on the disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa.

Indonesia's plea, however, was accompanied by comments from officials of other OPEC nations to the effect that — when under real pressure — the group has in the past succeeded in cobbling together production agreements to get a floor under prices.

"It may be good for OPEC if prices are a bit feeble, it will concentrate the minds of the ministers," one OPEC source said.

British bosses take big pay rises despite recession

LONDON (R) — Some of Britain's top bosses have taken huge pay rises, despite a slump in company earnings due to the recession, a report in the Sunday Times newspaper said.

The newspaper surveyed several of Britain's biggest companies and published details of the worst offenders under the front-page headline "Britain's most overpaid company bosses."

The chairman of building giant McAlpine took a 60 per cent rise this year to £309,000 (\$522,500), although his company's profit fell by 28 per cent, the Sunday Times said. ICI Chairman Denis Henderson saw his pay rise 11.4 per cent, while ICI earnings per share fell 24 per cent.

The chairman of the recently privatised electricity generator National Power took a 160 per cent increase in pay, it said.

The pay rises came "when the pay of workers and middle managers is being squeezed," observed the Sunday Times.

"Those who put avarice before economic health, who prefer themselves to their shareholders and when pay themselves out of all proportion to their merits can expect to find themselves featuring in these pages," it warned in an editorial.

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Fate of Bosnian town unclear ahead of Vance, Owen visit

SARAJEVO (R) — Both Serbs and Muslims claimed Wednesday they held the strategically vital central Bosnian town of Jajce, leaving its fate uncertain as international mediators arrived for a fresh round of peace talks in Belgrade.

A spokesman for the Muslim-led Bosnian army, which has been pitted against Serb fighters in more than six months of fighting, denied Serb reports that it had been captured.

"Jajce has not fallen and it will not," Fahrudin Radonjic told Reuters. "The current military situation in Jajce is even better than it was before recent aggressor offensives."

Despite the denial, Croat military sources near Travnik, some 30 kilometres away, said they feared Jajce would fall soon. The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the town was in a pitiful state, its sole link with the outside world a precarious corridor from Travnik used only at night to bring in desperately-needed supplies.

A brief report by the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) late Tuesday said Serb forces had already entered the town from three sides and "liberated" it from Muslims and their Croat allies who were defending it.

Non-military communications with Jajce have been cut off for more than 48 hours and there was no immediate way of checking the report, which followed a similar claim two days earlier that

turned out to be premature.

Bosnian Radio said scores of people had been killed and more than 100 wounded in Jajce Monday and described a fresh Serb onslaught Tuesday as the heaviest fighting since the war began. But it omitted all mention of Jajce from its Wednesday morning news bulletin.

The radio said Serb fighters stepped up their attack on the key northern town of Gradacac at dawn Wednesday, pounding it with tank and mortar shells. It gave no details of casualties.

While fighting continued across Bosnia, international mediators stepped up their bid to end the bloodshed which has killed thousands and driven tens of thousands from their homes.

Mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the international conference on Yugoslavia in Geneva arrived in Belgrade Wednesday for three days of meetings with officials from Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia.

In Belgrade, they were to meet Serbia's hardline nationalist leader Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic, and Prime Minister Milan Panic.

Diplomats at the Geneva conference say mediators have drawn up a plan for a new-style state in Bosnia with a central government including all ethnic groups but giving wide powers to regional administrations.

A spokesman said it provided a framework "preserving Bosnia-

Herzegovina's sovereignty as a nation... without a carve-up into ethnically-based entities."

On the ground, however, any attempt to prevent a carve-up has become a race against time.

A nominal alliance between Muslims and Croats against the Serbs is in tatters in several areas, with both sides trying to snatch territory.

A Reuters correspondent in the town of Prozor confirmed Tuesday that Croat forces had taken over after heavy fighting, brutally expelling Muslims and looting their shops. The Croats declined to say what had become of the Muslims.

Fighting between Serbs and Croats in the southern tip of Bosnia-Herzegovina appeared to have abated with the announcement of a three-day ceasefire Tuesday.

The timing of this agreement added weight to belief that the Serbs, who control some 70 per cent of Bosnia, and the Croats, who hold around 20 per cent in the western Herzegovina region, had reached some kind of agreement to end the war at the expense of the Muslims.

The Serbs are already acting as if the war were won. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic visited Visegrad, east of Sarajevo, Tuesday for talks with civil and military authorities from surrounding areas.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said they had discussed how to organise their

forces for final liberation of these territories, most of which are already under Serb control.

Meanwhile Lord Owen said Wednesday Serb Armed Forces are not complying fully with a U.N. Security Council resolution banning flights over Bosnia.

Lord Owen, arriving in Belgrade with Mr. Vance, told the television news agency Visnews the Serbs had flown no combat aircraft but were infringing other parts of the resolution passed two weeks ago.

"There are no U.N. observers at the Banja Luka Airfield, which is in breach of the U.N. resolution... there's been helicopter activity that's not been authorised by UNPROFOR (The U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia)," he said.

Lord Owen said he would try to iron out these issues with Mr. Karadzic and discuss Mr. Karadzic's offer to move his war planes out of the republic, from Banja Luka in northern Bosnia to neighbouring Serbia.

The Security Council passed its no-fly resolution after allegations of Serb air raids on Bosnian towns held by Muslim-led government forces. The Muslims have no air force of their own.

Pro-Muslim Bosnian Radio accused the Serbs of flying combat planes several times in the first few days after the resolution was passed but Lord Owen dismissed these reports.

"There have been no combat flights," he said.



Bosnian youths carry wood to heat their homes in the upcoming winter as gas and electricity are cut in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Tajik rebel leader calls for early parliament meeting

KHADZHEN, Tajikistan (R) — A leader of the failed rebellion in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan has called for a meeting of parliament as the only way to prevent an escalation of the country's bitter civil war.

"If parliamentary session is not held, this war will keep going. There are a lot of men, a lot of weapons," rebel leader Safarali Kenjayev told Reuters in an interview Tuesday.

Tajikistan, bordering China and Afghanistan on the southern edge of the former Soviet Union, was the scene of fierce fighting this week as troops loyal to Acting President Akhbarsho Iskandarov clashed with supporters of ousted ex-Communist President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

But Prime Minister Abdul Malik Abdul Janov, speaking aboard a plane bringing him to Khadzhn, from the Tajik capital Dushanbe, said a meeting of parliament was unlikely this week.

"The situation is not good," he said. "It will probably take a year or so to solve the problems (in our country)." The pro-Communist gunmen have tanks and weapons. We do not."

His tiny Yak-40 plane was packed with refugees, peasant women wore flowered shawls and headscarves, with long striped pants under their dresses. Babies cried as the three-engined plane took off.

Dushanbe was relatively calm Tuesday after forces loyal to Mr.

Nabiyev fled.

Russian television said pro-Communist Kulyah armed groups were resisting Interior Ministry forces just outside Dushanbe, but Mr. Iskandarov was confident that the government had all the forces it needed to act against any armed groups.

In a separate development, heavy fighting flared between Georgia and its breakaway region of Abkhazia Tuesday and a newspaper said Kyrgyzstan could become the next centre of ethnic bloodletting in the south of the former Soviet Union.

In Moscow, ex-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev joined forces with a group of pro-reform deputies to announce plans for an international conference to find new ways of solving the growing number of conflicts in the one-time superpower.

One of the deputies, a leader of Russia's small Republican Party, told reporters there were 180 potential ethnic flashpoints in the former Soviet Union.

One such hotspot is in Abkhazia, which borders Russia in the north of the Caucasian state of Georgia. Abkhazia wants independence from Georgia, while Georgia says the Black Sea region is an integral part of its territory.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted the Abkhazian diplomatic mission in Moscow as saying both Georgians and Abkhazians had died in intensive fire Tuesday

along the front line near the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi.

Russian army officers stationed in Georgia and caught up in the conflict were targeted on two fronts, although no casualties were reported, TASS said.

A spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry told the agency Georgian forces had shelled a ship sent to Sukhumi to evacuate Russian troops. Armed men had raided a Russian military unit in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, escaping with arms and ammunition.

In another area of unrest, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh said they came under fire from Azeri forces in the enclave and along the entire eastern border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh is in Azerbaijan and nominally administered from the Azeri capital Baku, but the population is mostly Armenian. More than 3,000 people have died in four years of fighting in and around the enclave.

Tension is building between rival clans in southern Kyrgyzstan and could flare up at any moment, the evening newspaper Izvestia said Tuesday.

The Kyrgyz National Security Committee called for a curfew in the southern region of Jalalabad, after demonstrators demanded the resignation of local leader Beknamat Osmonov at the weekend, accusing him of dictatorial rule.

New British TV satire will take aim at royals

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family, rocked this year by a succession of marital upsets, will suffer further indignity in a television satire looking at the monarchy through the eyes of its servants. The Granada Television Company said it planned to screen the new 13-part comedy drama early next year, adding to small screen mockery of the royals already served up in the satirical puppet series Spitting Image and the irreverent Pallas. Andy Harries, Granada's head of comedy, said the series would draw on storylines from the news to take a sharp look at the royals through the "below stairs" gossip of the servants. The show will be written by the creator of the royal comedy series Pallas, which caused controversy last year when it had Queen Elizabeth abdicating and naming her horse, instead of her eldest son Prince Charles, to succeed her. That series used news footage dubbed with actors' voices to poke fun at the royal family. Monarchists were not amused but the royals themselves are reported to have enjoyed the series. A sequel is planned later this year. The royal spoofs follow in the footsteps of Spitting Image, which includes caricature puppets of leading royals among its characters in the news.

Policeman's hand sewn back on after sword attack

LONDON (R) — A British policeman had his hand sewn back on in a 12-hour operation Tuesday after it was hacked off by an attacker wielding a Samurai sword. Detective Sergeant Bob Window's left hand was severed by a single blow as he was searching a house in north London. Local residents wrapped the hand in bags of frozen food, packed it in a bucket and sent it to a hospital with Sgt. Window. David Gault, one of six surgeons who worked through the night to save the hand, said the operation went well. "I think he has a very good chance of getting some function out of his hand, if not excellent function," he told reporters. Surgeons had to reconnect tendons, nerves, arteries and veins in the complex operation. But Dr. Gault said Sgt. Window's left arm was now fractionally shorter because his bones had shattered into fragments that were too small to rebuild. Police said a man was arrested following the attack.

Girl, dog survive 12 hours trapped in upturned boat

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands (R) — A 10-year-old French girl and her pet dog survived 12 hours inside an air bubble in an upturned sailing boat off the Canary Islands, the Spanish News Agency (EFE) said. It said the Trimar capsized in rough seas Monday, trapping Marine Clement inside with her dog and its two puppies. Her parents fell into the water and spent several hours clinging to the outside of the boat, talking to her through the hull, until they were rescued by an Italian cargo ship. The dog's bubbly guided divers to the girl, according to Red Cross sources quoted by EFE. The puppies drowned.

Fathers should stay out of the delivery room — doctor

VERONA, Italy (R) — The birth of a child is exclusively a time for mother and baby — fathers should stay out of the delivery room, according to leading French obstetrician Frederick Leboyer. "Pregnancy and birth are incomprehensible experiences for a man," the 74-year-old Leboyer said. "For the mother they are like a mystic voyage, a pilgrimage which men cannot join," he added. When a baby is born, it loses the security of the womb and instantly feels rejected. Dr. Leboyer told a conference in Verona. It needs to be reunited with its mother immediately. "Only contact with its mother's eyes can soothe the anguish — the newborn must be able to feel the mother's attention is solely for him or her," he went on. "The presence of the father is not recommended." Dr. Leboyer, author of "Birth without violence," believes the experiences of the first five minutes of a baby's life can condition its entire life and advocates making the delivery room and birth itself as pleasant and soothing as possible.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Patten: No secret deal on Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Governor Chris Patten rejected Chinese allegations Wednesday that Britain struck a secret deal with Peking to stifle Hong Kong democracy, and said documents released by both sides proved just that. In a highly unusual diplomatic step, Britain and China released exchanges in 1990 in which Peking said London had made a deal on elections to the colonial legislature in 1995. "What they make abundantly plain is that there was no secret deal on the future political development of Hong Kong between the British government and the Chinese government," Mr. Patten told reporters. China's top official responsible for Hong Kong Lu Ping revealed the existence of the documents last Friday during a furious attack on Mr. Patten's plans for democratic reform in the British colony. Copies of the correspondence between Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen and other officials seem to show Peking agreeing in principle five British proposals on the elections. But the overall exchange appears to have ended inconclusively and Mr. Patten said China had failed to build the proposals into the basic law, Hong Kong's constitution after it returns to China in 1997.

'Finland may have to rewrite history'

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's history may have to be rewritten after accusations that former long-serving President Urho Kekkonen collaborated with the Kremlin in rigging elections, a Finnish newspaper said. Mr. Kekkonen, whose years in office in 1956-81 made him a world figure, died in 1985. He was a prime mover behind the Conference on Security and Cooperation which first brought the West and the Soviet Bloc to the negotiating table in 1975. Documents made public recently and a book published here Monday by Finnish researcher Hannu Rautkallio indicate Mr. Kekkonen knew beforehand of a diplomatic note from Moscow that helped him to defeat a serious bid to unseat him in his 1962 election. The documents also include a letter from his chief fund raiser at the time asking Moscow for extra monetary assistance to pay off election expenses and finance pro-Kekkonen candidates in general elections at the time. They say, too, his first election in 1956 was manipulated by orders from the Kremlin to Communist delegates on the Finnish College of Electors that put him in office in a 151-149 vote.

French AIDS scandal doctor jailed

PARIS (R) — The central figure in France's scandal over AIDS-tainted blood transfusions returned from the United States Wednesday protesting he was a scapegoat, and was taken immediately to prison to begin a four-year sentence. Michel Garretta, former director of the National Blood Transfusion Centre (CNTS), stepped off a scheduled Northwest Airlines flight from Boston into a waiting police van. A police convoy, escorted by motorcycle outriders with sirens blaring, drove him to a court in the nearby suburb of Bobigny, where last Friday's sentence for fraud and negligence was read to him, and then to La Santé Prison in central Paris. Prison officials said he would be separated from other prisoners for his own safety. Speaking before departure from Boston Airport, an emotional and defiant Garretta said he had been unfairly singled out and blamed for a collective failure. "This judicial decision is totally incredible for me," he said. "I'm going home amid a climate of rumours that make me seem like a monster. It's all untrue...we're going to fight."

Japanese emperor returns from China

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Akihito returned home Wednesday from the first trip ever by a Japanese monarch to China, and the foreign minister called it significant in promoting mutual friendship between the World War II enemies. A special plane carrying the emperor and Empress Michiko landed at Tokyo's Haneda Airport after a two-hour, 15-minute flight from Shanghai. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was among those welcoming them back, as were their three children, including Crown Prince Naruhito. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who accompanied the royal couple, said in a statement before leaving Shanghai that "the visit to China by the emperor and the empress was significant for promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two nations." Emperor Akihito said upon returning that he considered his welcome by many people at various places in China an indication of friendship toward the Japanese people.

Ukraine gets new government

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma named a government Tuesday with 11 new ministers and said anyone failing to tackle the job of rebuilding the former Soviet republic's economy faced dismissal. Mr. Kuchma, head of one of the world's largest missile factories until he was appointed two weeks ago, told parliament he would introduce moderate market reforms and attack corruption which he said was stunting the economy. He pledged to settle differences with neighbouring Russia and promised to meet the International Monetary Fund (IMF) soon. "If any minister, or deputy prime minister or anyone else for that matter, fails to deal with matters and engages only in speech-making, I shall come back to you and tell you simply that I made a mistake," he told deputies. Opposition leaders gave a qualified blessing to his team, in which most key ministers kept their posts. After a short debate, deputies approved the cabinet by 296 votes to 62.

New group emerges out of Japan ruling party war

TOKYO (R) — A struggle for control of the largest faction within Japan's ruling party reached a climax Wednesday after a rebel group announced it was breaking away.

Not since the mid-1980s has the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) been racked by such intense maneuvering, sparked by the departure of faction chief Shin Kanemaru following his implication in a huge mobsters and money scandal. Keizo Obuchi was formally endorsed as the new faction chairman in a membership meeting Wednesday. "... What is at stake here is (enormous) political power," he said in a televised interview.

Mr. Kanemaru wielded so much power as chief of the dominant LDP faction that he was able to select the last three prime ministers, including current incumbent Kiichi Miyazawa, and influence government policy-making from the backroom.

After the faction meeting, supporters of Ichiro Ozawa, a Kanemaru protégé who has vehemently opposed Mr. Obuchi's appointment, announced they were forming a "study group" — the first step toward the creation of a new faction.

"We will not accept Obuchi as faction chairman," Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, a leading Ozawa ally, told a news conference.

"We are going to set up a policy study group... and hope to build up the membership over time," he said.

Bush, buoyed by polls, touts improved growth rate

WASHINGTON (R) — With six days to go to election day, President George Bush trumpeted improved growth figures, again impugning the integrity of front-running Democrat Bill Clinton and took heart in polls showing the race tightening.

The discovery of a crude bomb forced the cancellation of a scheduled appearance at a Colorado school by Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Al Gore.

The secret service said the device, discovered in the gymnasium before Sen. Gore arrived, was not powerful enough to have done structural damage, but could have caused injuries. It was the first such incident of the 1992 campaign.

Independent candidate Ross Perot, struggling to squelch a controversy over his allegations of Republican dirty tricks, was headed for more controversy Wednesday as he scheduled one of his rare campaign appearances, a stump speech in Denver.

A group of disgruntled former volunteers charged that the Perot campaign illegally checked their credit ratings while they were working for him.

The former volunteers from Maryland, Ohio and Missouri scheduled a news conference Wednesday to denounce the "illegal surveillance." The Perot campaign had no comment.

The president, campaigning in

the midwest, basked Tuesday in welcome news that the economy grew by a faster-than-expected 2.7 per cent in the third quarter. He proclaimed his confidence he would come from behind and win Tuesday.

Bush aides said they were encouraged by private polls showing the president within striking distance in such key battleground states as Ohio and Michigan.

The president was also buoyed by a new ABC News poll, taken on Sunday and Monday, that showed him gaining on Mr. Clinton, trimming his deficit to seven points, down from 11 points a day earlier.

The poll, with a four-point margin of error, gave Mr. Clinton 41 per cent of the vote, his lowest share since ABC began daily tracking early this month. Mr. Bush had 34 per cent and independent Ross Perot, 21 per cent, his largest share.

"For months Mr. Clinton and Sen. Gore have been telling us how bad this country is. Today the figures are out — economic growth for the sixth straight quarter," Mr. Bush said in Lima, Ohio.

"I ask you to meditate and think: When that Oval Office phone rings, or at night when the phone in the White House rings, my question to the American people is, who do you trust? Far

more important than partisan politics is the honour of the United States of America," he said.

Vice President Dan Quayle weighed in Tuesday to crow about the latest economic figures. He blamed what he called overwhelmingly negative press coverage for much of the nation's economic malaise.

Displaying a chart on the CNN programme Larry King Live, Mr. Quayle said both Mr. Bush and the economy had been given "a bum rap."

"But the people get their information from the media by and large, don't they? Of course they do. And if you have 98 per cent negative information about the economy, what is the average reasonable person going to think?" he said.

Mr. Bush will be in Ohio Wednesday. The state's 21 electoral voters are crucial to his re-election bid. He will be in Toledo, Strongsville and Columbus before heading to Detroit for another shot at Michigan, with 18 electoral votes.

Mr. Clinton harnessed across key southern battleground states Tuesday as the self-described leader of a "new Democratic Party."

The south has been solid Republican territory for the past 12 years, but the Arkansas governor and his running mate Sen. Gore,

from Tennessee, have made winning their native south a cornerstone of their strategy.

"I believe there is a strong new Democratic Party that is attracting the support of Democrats, Republicans, independents and former Perot supporters," Mr. Clinton said.

In Boise, Idaho, retired Admiral James Stockdale, Mr. Perot's running-mate, said Tuesday Mr. Clinton and other Vietnam protesters have "blood on their hands" because their protests prolonged the war.

The 68-year-old former navy pilot was shot down over North Vietnam during the mid-1960s and spent eight years in prison camps where he was tortured and held in leg irons and solitary confinement.

Adm. Stockdale declared, "those comrades of mine that died — the extra 10, 15, 20,000 — that blood is on your hands, you war protesters."

"You strung it out. You didn't stop it for a minute."

"Bill Clinton and other protesters have blood on their hands for extending the Vietnam war," Adm. Stockdale said.

Adm. Stockdale made the remarks in an interview with editors and reporters of the Idaho Statesman, a Boise newspaper.

Mr. Clinton participated in anti-war protests while a student more than 20 years ago.